



LAST CHANCE FOR THE HIPPODROME

Report by David Cosgrove

CAMPAIGNERS hoping to rescue Dudley Hippodrome from the wrecker's ball have one last chance to submit a plan to save the landmark venue.

Proposals revealed by Dudley Council earlier last week threatened the end for the historic theatre on Castle Hill by bulldozing it to be replaced with a landscaped open public space.

The authority drafted the plans after deciding all other suggestions for a revamp of the venue fell short.

However, after a meeting with the council on Friday, Friends of Dudley Hippodrome chairman Gordon Downing said the group had been given until the end of the year to form a 'viable business plan' to redevelop the Hippodrome.

Mr Downing said: "We've been given until the end of December to come up with a viable business plan filling in all the areas they want filled in."

"In that time we've got to get together a professional looking plan in some form or other. I'd like to appeal to anybody out there if they can help us draw up that plan."

Councillors will be asked at a meeting today (Thu) about whether to submit their planning application for flattening the building and replacing it with a landscaped public space.

Alternatives

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said members had considered a number of proposals for the building in the past five years, but all alternatives had failed.

However, he said that if someone comes to the authority with a firm, viable proposal to redevelop the theatre then the council will still consider this – even as their own proposal to knock down the historic building progresses.

Councillors will be asked at today's meeting about whether to submit a planning application for the site. If the new vision gets the green light by the council cabinet, the scheme could be heard by a planning committee next year.

Councillor Ahmed, cabinet member for planning and economic development, said: "We want to see the Hippodrome brought back to life, if it can be."

"But no-one has come forward with a business plan that showed they could actually bring it back into use as a theatre."

"We will continue taking these proposals to the cabinet on the basis there's no viable plan. If, at any stage, someone comes to us with a firm plan – with the money needed – then obviously we will look at it. What we won't do is prolong this any further than we need to."

"If the Friends group suddenly come to us with £10 million to redevelop the Hippodrome why wouldn't we want to do that? But they've been working for three years on a plan and nothing has come forward."

● Final curtain? – see pages 2 & 6

BREWERY CELEBRATES CENTENARY AT ALE FAYRE



Holden's estates manager Mike Doherty, head brewer Ivan Hayes and sales manager Phil Britton toast the brewery's 100th anniversary

REAL ale fans turned out in their hundreds for the annual Dudley Winter Ales Fayre in Dudley Town Hall.

There were more than 70 beers from brewers from all over the country to enjoy this year.

The Deputy Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Mohammed Hanif, opened the three-day festival run by the Dudley and South Staffordshire branch of the Campaign for Real Ale (Camra) last Thursday.

This year's event also celebrated the 100th anniversary of Woodsetton's Holden's Brew-

ery and the commemorative glasses feature Father Christmas saying: "Ho..Ho.. Holden's!"

Automaton, a seven per cent strength ale, from Shropshire's Salopian Brewery was judged the best in the West Midlands for barley wines and strong old ales by a panel of judges from Camra. The silver medal went to Snowflake, an eight per cent beer, from Sarah Hughes Brewery in Sedgley.

Branch members voted Chop and Change, an eight per cent beer, from Hebden Bridge's Vocation Brewery as beer of the festival.

The strongest beer on sale was Cyclone, a 15 per cent ale, created by Halesowen breweries Angel Ales and Fixed Wheel.

Automaton went into the judging of the nine finalists in Camra's West Midlands beer of the year. The winning beer will not be announced until West Midland Camra's awards event at the Bartons Arms in Birmingham on December 28.

During the festival an auction of breweriana was being held in aid of the festival's charities We Love Carers and the Black Country Museum's Tram 5 restoration.

ACCIDENT

Appeal to find driver after road tragedy

A MAN has died after being hit by a car in Amblecote. The 66-year-old was treated by paramedics at the scene in High Street but died later.

Officers were called to the junction of Brettell Lane at around 6.50pm on Sunday following reports that a car had hit a man.

Police are appealing to the driver of a dark 4x4 to come forward. A 25-year-old man, who was the driver of a red Vauxhall Corsa, was arrested on suspicion of death by dangerous driving. He was later released on police bail. West Midlands Police are appealing for information on 101.

DEATH

Pensioner hit by car at hospital has died

A PENSIONER hit by a car on a hospital car park has died from his injuries.

Ivan Tranter, aged 83, suffered head injuries when a vehicle reversed into him at Russells Hall Hospital where he had an appointment on November 3.

He received treatment and was released from hospital. Later his condition deteriorated and he died in hospital in Birmingham on Friday.

Police have spoken to the driver involved and are appealing for witnesses to come forward. Call police on 101.

COURT

Doormen are held after man is killed

TWO doormen have been charged with murder after the death of a man at a charity event being held at Samsons Banqueting Suite in Rood End Road, Oldbury, on November 22.

Nicolas Salhan, aged 36, from Haybridge Avenue, Stourbridge, and Jonathan Davies, 42, of Old Bridge Walk, Rowley Regis, have been charged with the murder of Mr Inderjit Singh Dhariwal, a 49-year-old father from Langley, and appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court on Monday.

The pair were remanded in custody and are due to appear before the court again in April.

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Inspector sacked over pizza brawl lies



Jaswant Singh – dismissed

A POLICE inspector who ordered back-up to slow down as officers struggled to contain a fight in a pizza shop has been sacked.

A misconduct panel found Inspector Jaswant Singh ‘deliberately lied’ to his chief inspector to try and cover up his error.

The senior officer told colleagues to ‘take their time’ despite officers needing urgent help as they tried to control mobs at Olivio’s in Stourbridge.

The West Midlands Police panel concluded Mr Singh, who has 24 years service, had breached professional

standards relating to honesty and integrity and said his actions ‘fell short’ of that expected of a senior officer. They also found he had lied about being in the pizza shop.

It was alleged in the hearing that he had gone to the wrong pizzeria, Romio’s rather than Olivio’s, less than 100 metres away.

Assistant chief constable Carl Foulkes, who chaired the panel, said: “The panel finds his actions placed both his colleagues and members of the public at risk.”

The panel had heard how officers

were baffled to hear Mr Singh giving orders for back-up to slow down over the radio as they attempted to prevent the situation from escalating as trouble flared in the High Street shop just before 2.30am on February 23.

When back-up did arrive, the panel heard Mr Singh, duty inspector for Dudley on the night, who was outside the restaurant, ‘instructed them it was calm’. They went past him anyway and eight men in all, were thrown out.

In two meetings with his superior Mr Singh lied, the panel ruled. He was dismissed without notice by the panel.

Outrage at scheme to demolish Hippodrome

THE founder of the new Dudley Civic Society has hit out at Dudley Council over its plans to demolish the town’s Hippodrome theatre.

Despite a lengthy campaign by supporters to see it restored to its former glory, council chiefs want to pull the historic theatre down and replace it with an outdoor exhibition area.

It comes just weeks after interested parties were given the chance to put forward proposals to redevelop the venue but these applications failed to convince council planners.

Steve Briscoe, who is forming a society to safeguard the town’s heritage, has slammed the plans, saying it contradicts what the council has previously said about boosting tourism.

Historic

He said: “I think it’s disgusting the way the council has gone about this decision. The Dudley area is being promoted as a place of tourism, but how can this be when they’re knocking down one of its most historic landmarks?”

“The Black Country Museum has been done up and the Hippodrome could have complimented it very well if it was to be revamped. I just can’t believe how short sighted the council has been. They’ve shown no passion or ambition for this project and I feel to knock the Hippodrome down just undermines Dudley town further.

They’re using austerity as a weapon and it’s a very sad situation to be in.”

A leading campaigner said he fears that £1 million of taxpayers’ money will be to be used to flatten the 1930s-built venue, which once hosted such stars as Laurel and Hardy and George Formby.

Dudley Council revealed last week that it would seek to knock down the theatre to create an ‘open space’ near the entrance to Dudley Zoo on Castle Hill.

Malcolm Palmer, who founded the Friends of Dudley Hippodrome group



An artist’s impression of the plan for the Hippodrome site, looking towards the old cinema on Dudley’s Castle Hill

alongside the late Geoff Fitzpatrick, said it was ‘terrible’ news having only learned of its fate after reading about it in the Express & Star.

Dudley Council is yet to reveal how much it will cost to demolish the theatre but Mr Palmer claimed those costs could spiral.

“It will cost a lot to demolish it with the asbestos— this is at a time when the council is looking to make cuts. I think it could cost maybe £1m at a time when they are supposed to be cutting back.”

Gordon Downing, chairman of the

Friends of Dudley Hippodrome, said: “This is absolutely diabolical. To come out and pronounce it like this is disgraceful.

“If they think we’re walking away from this without a fight then they’ve got another thing coming.”

The council move, which is being discussed by its cabinet today (Thu), marks the latest – and perhaps final – twist in the long-running saga to try to bring the venue back into use.

The former theatre and bingo hall would be bulldozed with a sweeping open public space in its place.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said members had considered a number of proposals for the building in the past five years.

He said: “This has been a long-running issue and we have fully explored every suggested alternative use submitted so far. But after giving people every opportunity we need to draw a line under this. The cost of securing the building is also hitting taxpayers in the pocket and we cannot continue to bear the costs of consultants to appraise unviable projects.”

● Final Curtain – Page 6

Sir Lenny is to pave the way in his home town

SIR Lenny Henry will be in Dudley next week to unveil his MOBO Awards paving stone in his hometown.

The MOBO (Music of Black Origin) Paving The Way award, which celebrates trailblazers and influencers in music and the arts, was presented to Sir Lenny at the awards ceremony earlier this month.

Recipients of the award are honoured with a permanent paving stone laid in a place which has shaped them. It is intended as a way of shining a light on their achievements to inspire generations to come.

Sir Lenny has chosen for his paving stone to be laid at Buffery Park, which is near the home where he grew up. It MOBO slab will be unveiled on Wednesday, December 9.

The actor and comedian had the audience on its feet during his award acceptance speech at the ceremony in Leeds as he said he ‘could only have got here from standing on the shoulders of giants’.

He went on to name-check famous names from Bob Marley to Michael Jackson and ‘that bloke from the Halifax advert’ while accepting the Paving The Way award.

Lenny said: “It’s an honour to say you’ve paved the way for people because my career isn’t over. I don’t feel like anything’s finished yet.”

He added: “It’s a huge honour. I’m very, very happy. It’s wonderful.”

Lenny Henry is already a Freeman of Dudley borough and a CBE. He was one of the founders of Comic Relief.

Merry Hill now trumps Bullring

BRIERLEY Hill’s Intu Merry Hill is the top West Midlands shopping centre in a new guide.

Trevor Wood Associates’ Going Shopping 2016: The Definitive Guide to Shopping Centres has Merry Hill is in eighth place nationally, ahead of Birmingham’s Bullring in 14th and The Telford Shopping Centre in 20th. The Bullring has slipped two places from 12th last year.

London area shopping centres Westfield Stratford City, Bluewater and Westfield London were at the top of the table. The researchers examined all 764 shopping centres in the UK.

LaSalle retained its position as leading owner/investment manager and Merry Hill owner Intu Properties number one direct property owner.

Looking for the next Andy Murray

TENNIS enthusiasts in the Black Country are on the lookout for the next Andy Murray. Tipton Sports Academy is holding sessions for anybody interested in learning to play tennis. Courts and coaches will be available. Contact Lee Marks on 0121 506 4980.

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Fly-tipping is a blight on scenic walk route

FLY-TIPPERS have been accused of blighting a scenic walk between Dudley landmarks by a UKIP Euro MP.

Rubbish has been dumped on Limestone Walk which is on a route between Dudley Castle and Sedgley's Beacon Hill. It takes walkers on a route through Wrens Nest Nature Reserve, which is a geological site of special scientific interest.

But in recent days residents have alerted councillors to waste dumped along the route.

Bill Etheridge, UKIP MEP and a councillor for Sedgley, said he was appalled at the state of Limestone Way, saying the countryside walk has been left in a disgusting state by fly-tippers. Two dumped settees and graffiti on signs are among the eyesores.

Councillor Etheridge says fly-tipping is a growing problem across the borough and urged people to report hotspots.

"This walk takes in some important geological and historical sites and should be a tourist attraction," he said.

"It's not much of an advert for Dudley in the state it is in now."

"I have asked the council to clean the area as a matter of urgency but it's the fly-tippers I am most annoyed with."

Councillor Etheridge has pointed out several instances of dumping rubbish recently, including on the Co-op car park in Sedgley. He paid out of his own pocket to clear a rat-infested dump at the rear of houses in Aston Road, Dudley.

Retired officer's bravery award

A RETIRED police officer who helped foil a raid on a post office has been honoured by the force's top brass.

Alfred Allington, 66, was being served at the counter in Wall Heath Post Office on March 21 last year when it was stormed by four masked men. Two approached the counter, with one jumping over, while the other pushed Mr Allington.

He pushed one of the gang back and struggled with him until he backed off. Mr Allington then turned his attention to the other man standing on the counter, grabbing hold him and pulling him down.

He was presented with a silver certificate by Head of the National Police Chiefs' Council, Chief Constable Sara Thornton.

Santa has set up his grotto at zoo

THE latest addition to Dudley Zoo is... Santa! Father Christmas arrived on Tuesday to meet youngsters in his grotto at the Castle Hill attraction. He will be at the zoo every day until Christmas Eve, from 10am to 4pm.

Lost Legion medal found one year later



David Screen has got his medal back

A ROYAL British Legion medal awarded for long service has been reunited with its owner — a year after it went missing.

Police launched an appeal for help after the medal, awarded to David Screen, aged 67, was lost at The Crown pub in Sedgley on Remembrance Sunday last year.

Mr Screen, from Sedgley, was given the medal for 49 years service as a volunteer with the Legion, helping with poppy collections and at parades.

He feared it had been lost for good but the medal was found in an alley-

way between Roundhouse Road and Jews Lane — about a mile and a half away from where it went missing — this month.

Mr Screen said he was 'over the moon' to have the medal back.

"To have it returned to me almost a year to the day is fantastic," he said.

"It was never the value but what it meant to me, as it represented 49 years of collecting."

"The British Legion have also said they may be sending me another one but I'm just pleased my original is back home."

Mr Screen was unable to attend the service last year due to being in hospital, so instead he let his seven-year-old great nephew wear it at a parade on the day.

After the parade the youngster and his family went to The Crown pub and when they left they realised the coat with medal attached was missing.

One year on, a woman found the medal in a Sedgley alleyway and posted the discovery on a local Facebook page, which was drawn to the attention of Mr Screen.

More than 300 Caparo jobs saved in new deal

THREE hundred Black Country jobs have been saved at struggling steel giant Caparo.

Caparo Tubular Solutions, which has bases in Oldbury and Bilston, has been bought by the Gupta family who run the Simec and Liberty House groups.

The deal means 333 jobs have been saved, 300 of which are in the Black Country.

The deal to save CTS has been welcomed by union bosses, councillors and MPs across the Black Country.

Sandwell Council leader Darren Cooper said: "This is great news for the workers, particularly against the backdrop of recent bad news associated with the firm. We welcome the new owners and will be making efforts to see if we can help in any way."

Harish Patel, national officer for the union Unite, said: "Unite will be working with the new owners to ensure jobs are secured in the UK for the long term. We will also be seeking assurances and commitments from the new owners on investment and training which is so crucial to sustaining skilled, well-paid jobs in our manufacturing sector."

CTS includes Caparo Precision Tubes in Oldbury, Caparo Tube Components and Caparo Acles and Pollock, also based in Oldbury, Hub Le Bas in Bilston, and Caparo Tubes Tredegar in Wales. It has not been confirmed how many jobs have been saved at each site.

Administration

The deal brings the number of Caparo jobs saved since the firm went into administration to 488. The firm went into administration in October, initially putting up to 1,700 jobs in the Black Country at risk.

A total of 245 jobs went at Darlaston-based Caparo Atlas Fastenings, Caparo Forging Europe in Dudley and Caparo Fairbright Wire in West Bromwich, which all closed. Plants in Cradley Heath and Oldbury saw 78 jobs go.

Meanwhile, Chancellor George Osborne on Monday visited the Jaguar Land Rover plant on the outskirts of Wolverhampton after announcing a new research consortium led by JLR will receive a £16.6m grant to develop a more efficient transmission system. This grant will be matched by private funding, bringing the total funding to over £33m.

It will create 60 roles in research and development and could lead to the creation of a further 130 manufacturing and engineering roles.



Schoolgirl Olivia Falato, from The Broadway, Dudley, with her bravery award from the Childhood Eye Cancer Trust that was presented at Dudley Zoo

Special award for brave Olivia, 13

A TEENAGE girl who battled a rare form of cancer, losing one eye, has received a prestigious award in recognition of her bravery.

Olivia Falato, aged 13, was diagnosed with retinoblastoma, a cancer which affects the retina, in 2003 when she was just 15 months old.

Olivia had tumours in both eyes and despite treatment at Birmingham Children's Hospital she eventually had to have her left eye removed — she now wears an artificial eye.

In recognition of her outstanding bravery Olivia, who lives in The Broadway in Dudley, has been named a Champion by the Childhood Eye Cancer Trust.

Her mother, Julie, said: "We are incredibly proud of her. She had such a resilient personality and that spurred us on too."

Olivia is a talented dancer, studying ballet, tap, modern and hip-hop. Her dream is to become a dance teacher.

Mrs Falato, 48, also mother to nine-year-old Isabella, added: "Her dance teacher says Olivia deals so well with her limited field of vision that it's easy to forget she has to work extra hard."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Thousands sign up to save museum

MORE than 3,500 people have signed a petition against plans to shut Dudley Museum and Art Gallery.

The attraction in St James's Road faces the axe under plans by Dudley Council to save £20 million.

Petition organiser Ross Crompton said closing the 'prized asset' would deprive future generations of the chance to explore their heritage.

Council bosses say artefacts would move to Dudley Archives and Local History Centre, Tipton Road. The petition is at you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/save-dudley-museum-art-gallery

Keepers sharing animal expertise

TWO Dudley Zoo keepers took centre stage at a meeting of the British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums Mammal Working Group.

Trainee keeper Cara Sheldon spoke about setting up the zoo's Castle Creatures exhibit and caring for bats for the first time at Dudley.

While lower primates section leader Nicola Wright gave a presentation on white-faced saki monkeys.

Staff from more than 20 UK animal collections attended the three-day event at Blackpool Zoo, including six other staff from Dudley Zoo.

MP is available at supermarket

DUDLEY South MP Mike Wood will be holding an open advice surgery at Sainsbury's in Merry Hill on Friday, December 18. Conservative Mr Wood will be at the Sainsbury's Café from 2pm onwards.

He said: "Most of the advice surgeries I hold are normally by appointment only. But I tried this concept in October and it was very popular. If constituents have an issue they would like to discuss then they should turn up on the day."

Wizard show will be a real family affair

A FATHER and daughter will share the stage in Dudley for a production of much-loved fantasy The Wizard of Oz.

Isabella Cook, nine, will star with her father Carl at Netherton Arts Centre on January 23.

The youngster will play Dorothy and her father will be playing the wizard. For tickets call Chris Sykes on (01384) 895266. Isabella also has a role in hit comedy musical Shrek at the Birmingham Hippodrome in the summer.

Crafty Christmas fair

A HOMEMADE Christmas gifts fair is being held in Dudley Library in St James's Road on Saturday, from 10am to 2pm.

Those attending the event will also be able to pick up tips on making their own crafty gifts to give as presents this Christmas.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



HOW long does technology have to be around before it appears in our dreams? A reader relates a panicky nightmare. She needed to send a text message on her smartphone but was wearing huge, unremovable mittens.

IN the opening episode of the Beeb's new drama series, Capital, it was allegedly Christmas Eve in London yet the sun was high in the sky and the trees were in the full leaf that goes with a green and balmy season. This "Christmas" was obviously filmed in summer. Do such errors matter? Yes, they do. These days, no-one writes drama purely to entertain. There is always a message and an agenda. In Capital we are introduced to the wickedness of the banking industry, the greed of property developers, the gulf between rich and poor, the unkindness of the immigration system and the anger of young Muslims. We assume that what we see has been well researched. But if they can't even get the seasons right, why should we believe any of the rest?

RESEARCH in Russia suggests people who play classical musical instruments such as the cello and harp, live longer than those twanging away on electric guitars. As the journal Advances in Gerontology puts it, instruments associated with "higher intellect and education" go with a longer lifespan. I fear we ukulele players are not long for this world. Higher intellect and education are not usually associated with My Little Stick of Blackpool Rock. Worryingly, George Formby only made it to 56.

BENEDICT Cumberbatch plays a fashion model of indeterminate sex in Zoolander 2. For this he has been denounced in an online petition thus: "Cumberbatch's character is clearly portrayed as an over-the-top, cartoonish mockery of androgynous/trans/non-binary individuals. Who'd be a pantomime dame?"



IT'S good to see Timothy West and Prunella Scales back in a third series of Great Canal Journeys (C4) but the title is hardly inspiring. How about "Tim and Pru Go Bashing Into Things"? West has apparently been a canal fan for 30 years yet seems fated to hit anything in his path, be it lock, bollard or someone else's boat. There's a sudden wallop and West exclaims brightly: "Sorry, bit of wind there." Finding yourself confronted by a pair of national treasures, what can you do but smile sweetly and hope your insurance is in order? The most terrifying thing you can hear on the Grand Union is the skipper on the approaching narrowboat saying: "Fancy taking the helm, Tim?"

THE British Army's new rapid-response Brigades won't be ready for ten years. The Royal Regiment of Oxymorons?

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Charity helps American family enjoy Thanksgiving

A VOLUNTARY service's annual Santa toy appeal operation hit a new high this week by helping a mother and her children thousands of miles away on the west coast of America.

Dudley Council for Voluntary Service, based in Albion Street, has been collecting and distributing toys and gifts at Christmas for thousands of children in the Dudley area for 40 years.

A post on their Operation Santa

Facebook page generated a plea from a lady named Michelle, in Santa Paula, Ventura County, California, who is unable to work and lives in a van.

She wanted to know if the Operation Santa team could help as she 'could not give her children any kind of Christmas and would dearly love to provide them with a proper Christmas meal'.

Eileen Fielding, manager at Op-

eration Santa, replied by posting a message via Facebook, even though she was 7,000 miles away.

Mission

A Dudley woman responded saying she knew of a project for homeless people in Ventura County, sending a link to Rescue Mission of Ventura.

Within a few hours Michelle and her children were enjoying a Thanksgiving Day meal with a local family.

Rescue Mission of Ventura have also promised to help Michelle and her children celebrate Christmas too.

Ms Fielding said: "Everyone knows Santa is a magical figure, but even the great man himself would struggle to top this truly wonderful combination of social media technology and good old-fashioned love and compassion."

"We are calling it a Miracle on Albion Street," she added.

Paramedics staff boost ready for festive season

By Richard Guttridge

WEST Midlands Ambulance Service will have more staff than ever in the run-up to the hectic Christmas and New Year period.

The service, which has its headquarters at The Waterfront in Brierley Hill, will be backed by more than 2,500 operational staff as bosses prepare for their most demanding time of year.

The workforce has been boosted by additional student and graduate paramedics.

The West Midlands Ambulance Service received 1,436 calls on New Year's Eve last year and experienced its busiest day ever in December.

Chiefs say the extra staff will be crucial to ensure the service is able to cope with the surge in demand.

Emergency services director Craig Cooke said: "There is little doubt that the winter is likely to be an incredibly difficult one, so the fact that we have so many more staff joining our teams is great news."

Recruit

Director of workforce Kim Nurse added: "We are continuing to recruit additional paramedics and provide training for other staff to progress towards higher levels of clinical care. We have made excellent progress and these new joiners demonstrate just how hard our recruitment and training departments have been working to attract and train high calibre staff."

Chief executive Anthony Marsh told a recent accountability meeting that the West Midlands service was not suffering staffing pressures that its counterparts elsewhere were because it 'grew its own paramedics'.

He said: "The West Midlands Ambulance Service is the only ambulance service achieving every single response time target. The other nine are failing to achieve all of them, some are only achieving one or two. That does not happen by accident, that it because of the commitment of our staff."

Spotlight falls on villages' 'lost sons'



Joy Marshall, right, and fellow researcher Lis Corfield with a book on those named on the memorial at St Mary's Church A BOOK looking at the lives of men from Wall Heath and Kingswinford who were killed in wartime is complete after three years of research.

Joy Marshall and her husband Guy estimate that they spent thousands of hours searching through the records to find out more about the men who went to war but didn't return alive.

The book, called The Lost Sons of Wall Heath and Kingswinford, chronicles the lives of the men listed on the war memorial in Wall Heath.

Joy first became intrigued with the men as a child when she would wait for the bus opposite the memorial. In 2012, a successful bid for Heritage Lottery Funding to the Wall Heath and Kingswinford War Memorials

Research Group meant that she could finally find out about the village's lost generation.

The £13,000 grant paid for printing and publishing costs as well as helping with the many hours spent researching the men's past, trawling through civic and newspaper archives and websites as well as chatting to some of the victim's relatives.

Joy, aged 61, said: "It's not just a book about the war, it's about the men and who they were."

The book features 108 men who lost their lives in the conflicts with photographs of around half of them.

The book is on sale at John Sparry's book shop in Enville Road, Wall Heath, from December 5 and can be ordered by calling Joy Marshall on 07739 572121.

Tips on how to tackle the problem of condensation

FAMILIES in Dudley can get free advice to help tackle the problem of condensation in their homes.

Condensation is caused when warm moist air comes into contact with cold air or cold surface, such as a window or wall, and causes water droplets to form.

Due to cold weather this is particularly an issue during winter when homes are warmer than outside.

Dudley Council has produced leaflets offering hints and tips about how to tackle the issue, as well as facts and figures.

Councillor Gaye Partridge, cabinet member for housing, said: "Condensation and mould can be a particular problem during the winter months so we decided to produce a leaflet and video."

"These items have been produced primarily with council tenants in mind, but are relevant to anyone experiencing condensation in their home."

"It is easy to tackle condensation by just following the hints put forward in this, including keeping vents clear, heating the property sufficiently, drying clothes outside and reducing the amount of steam created by daily routines."

"By following this advice you may even be able to save money on your fuel bills."

Tenants who are concerned that issues with damp are not due to condensation should call the Repairs Management Centre on 0300 555 8283.

Apartments plan for a former pub

A VANDAL-HIT former pub in Dudley will be converted into homes under new plans.

Seven apartments would be created at the New Golden Cross in Cradley Road in the proposals put forward by L & S Hussain.

Designs have been submitted to Dudley Council which will decide within the next three months whether to grant planning permission. The application says the building has been targeted by both vandals and thieves.

The developer says the 'key features' of the building, such as the double entrance doors, slender window bars and stone 'Golden Cross' detail will be retained as part of the redevelopment as homes. Neighbouring residents and businesses have been consulted.

Society to mark 70th anniversary at concert

DUDLEY Choral Society's Christmas concert also marks its 70th anniversary. Works by Dvorak, Handel and Menotti will be performed at St Mark's Church, Pensnett, on December 12, 7.30pm. Tickets £5 in aid of the Rose Window Restoration Fund.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Healthy wraps at Merry Hill centre

FUSION food chain Wrapchic is to open its latest site at Intu Merry Hill before Christmas.

The business, which specialises in healthy wraps, which was founded by Mahesh Raikar in 2012 and has grown from one site in a central Birmingham to having outlets in high streets, hospitals and universities.

David Walton, Wrapchic's head of retail, said the business was proving a huge success and as well as locations, such as Merry Hill shopping centre, it was also looking at launching abroad, including Dubai and New York.

Three days of fun for Leah's charity

A THREE-day charity event is raising funds for the treatment of a five-year-old girl with cerebral palsy.

The Leah's Wish campaign has been set up to raise £35,000 for Leah Davy from Rowley Regis.

Leah, who was born three months premature at Russells Hall Hospital, has spastic diplegia which means she is unable to walk.

The three-day event is at The Royal Harji Bhaji, Dudley Road, Rowley Regis, from tomorrow (Friday) to Sunday. Events include a darts competition, karaoke and open mic night.

Retro restaurant brings 50s style

A RETRO 1950s-style American diner is opening at Merry Hill shopping centre on Monday.

The Ed's Easy Diner at Intu Merry Hill will feature 1950s decor, a menu offering burgers, hotdogs and shakes, and a jukebox featuring hits from the rock 'n' roll era. Customers will be able to watch their food being prepared in an open kitchen.

On the lower mall, it is the latest in a chain with restaurants in the Bullring and Grand Central, Birmingham.

Chance to see funny side at comedy nights

COMEDIENNE and actress Jo Enright, who has appeared in Trolled, Life's Too Short and The Job Lot, is top of the bill at Fitz of Laughter Comedy Club at Katie Fitzgerald's pub in Enville Street, Stourbridge, tomorrow (Fri) from 8.30pm. Tickets £10, see www.WeGotTickets.com website.

"Kum-n-avaloff" comedy night is at Stourbridge Town Hall tonight. Every first Thursday of the month it showcases comedy talent with curry included for £8.75. Call (01384) 812960.

Jade helping baboons

DUDLEY Zoo primate keeper Jade Reddall is more than half way through her month-long mission to help wild baboons in South Africa.

The 25-year-old is on paid leave working with rescued chacma baboons from the Centre for Animal Rehabilitation and Education in Phalaborwa.

More than 50 die while waiting for a transplant

HUNDREDS of patients across the West Midlands are waiting for potentially life-saving organ transplants.

NHS Blood and Transplant has launched its national winter campaign aiming at increasing the number of people on the donor register.

Across the region there are 388 people on the UK's waiting list for a transplant and 159 have been waiting longer than two years. Fifty of them have been left in limbo for more than five years.

There are 118 patients in the Black Country on the transplant waiting list and in the period covered by the release 2011-present, 56 people in the Black Country have died before they got the organ they were waiting for.

Sally Johnson, NHS Blood and Transplant Director of Organ Donation and Transplantation said: "Statistically, more than one in ten people on the waiting list will die before they get the transplant they need.

"For some organs, the picture is significantly bleaker. More than one in four people waiting for lungs will die.

"I'd ask you to imagine how you'd feel if someone close to you was waiting for a transplant; their whole life on hold, hoping someone will donate to save them.

"I'm sure we'd all hope an organ would be available to help someone we love - so shouldn't we all pledge to be organ donors so more lives can be saved?"

To join the NHS Organ Donor Register go to the organdonation.nhs.uk website or call 0300 123 2323.

Names sought for new glass museum

PEOPLE in Stourbridge and surrounding areas are being asked to name the new glass museum.

The British Glass Foundation wants residents to put forward suggestions for the new museum which is being built on the site of the former Stuart Crystal glassworks site in Wordsley. It is due to open in 2017.

Graham Knowles, chairman of the British Glass Foundation, said: "The choice of name and logo is crucial in helping to establish and maintain the image of the new museum as a global brand. It is only proper that the people of Stourbridge and the wider world of glass should now be offered the opportunity to have their say." The closing date is February 29, email bgf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk

Christmas fair is held at village hall

A FESTIVE table top sale and fair is taking place at a village hall near Stourbridge. Stourton Village Hall, in Bridgnorth Road, is hosting the Christmas fundraiser on Saturday from 9.30am to 12.30pm.

Football centre put on market for £1m

A FIVE-A-SIDE football centre in the Black Country has been put up for sale for £1 million.

But the future of football at the Goals Soccer Centre in Rowley Regis has been assured despite the potential change in ownership at the venue.

Goals has a 55-year lease to host football at the centre in Cakemore Road. The centre is due to be put up for auction on December 8 and carries a guide price of £1 million.

Goals currently pays nearly £52,000 a year in rent. The site covers 4.3 acres and includes 12 pitches as well as a sports pavilion and car park.

There is a bar and spacious seating area near the entrance to the building, while a function suite and children's party room can also be hired.

Goals Soccer Centre has an established reputation among amateur football players in the Black Country for its floodlit all-weather outdoor pitches which are accredited by the Football Association.

Earlier this month, Goals Soccer Centre issued its second profits warning in matter of weeks as its autumn growth targets fell short of expectations.

Washout

The company, which has another site in Willenhall, warned over profits in September after a washout summer. That announcement led to the company losing one fifth of its stock market value.

Goals' futuristic five-a-side football complex created 25 jobs when it was built in 2008. The site used

to be home to both football and bowls teams, with a pitch and green.

But it had been vacant for years and became an overgrown eyesore before Dudley Council's gave the green light to plans for a revamp in late 2007.

After concerns were raised by Sport England about the loss of the natural-grass full-size football pitch, developers promised to bring the site back into use for local 11-a-side teams to use as part of the deal.

At the time Goals managing director Keith Rogers said: "The sports ground had fallen into disrepair and has been overgrown for a number of years. A £2 million investment in sporting facilities has got to be a big plus for the area."

£500k will be spent on improving housing

THOUSANDS of people living on housing estates in Dudley will see their homes benefit from a new £500,000 cash pot.

The money has been set aside to improve facilities on housing estates across the borough. Four projects are already set to benefit.

Communal entrance doors and lighting at Kates Hill will be upgraded along with parking facilities added for six bungalows in Saltwells Road, Netherton.

A block of garages will be demolished at Round House Road and the entrance to flats in Chawn Hill Close, Stourbridge, will also be upgraded.

Dudley Council's housing services has set aside a yearly budget to fund initiatives, which have been approved by the housing board, and the Dudley Federation of Tenants' and Residents' Association.

Councillor Gaye Partridge, cabinet member for housing, said: "As a community council we want as many tenants involved in making the decision as to where funds are spent as possible."

Assist

She explained that the money enables representatives from the housing board, Dudley Federation and residents to indicate where they believe money could be used to assist community projects.

"This money can only be invested in projects proposed and supported by the community," she added.

"This is great news for everyone living on our estates as it ensures that their wishes are taken into account."

The group assesses each bid against a qualifying criteria before deciding whether to support the application for funding.

The changes were introduced following a review of the council's working practices and each idea is prioritised in order of importance.

Housing managers can also commission low value projects - up to 20 per cent of the fund - which the council hopes will speed up improvements.

Dudley Federation of Tenants' and Residents' Association was set up in 1991 to support council tenants and residents. The group also offers advice and guidance.

Members, with the help of the council, can also distribute funding.

Fizzog grannies now a work of art



The painting of the Fizzogs on display at the 87th annual exhibition by the Dudley Society of Artists

COMEDY trio The Fizzogs have been immortalised in art and have taken pride of place on the wall at an annual art exhibition in Dudley.

The exhibition by the Dudley Society of Artists, now in its 87th year, opened this month and will run until February 7, 2016.

Painted in oil and acrylics by chairman of the Dudley Society of Artists, Keith Turley, the picture captures actresses Sue Hawkins,

Jacky Fellows and Deb Nicholls as 'The Critics'.

Formed in 2000, the comedy troupe focus their humour on Black Country characters and their famous dancing grannies sketch went viral on the internet after their performance at Stourbridge Carnival.

Mr Turley, from Wall Heath, has more than 30 years experience as an art teacher before he retired from teaching to concentrate on

painting. He said: "It was a pleasure to paint the Fizzogs and immortalise them through the power of paint for the people of Dudley to see. I've concentrated on painting many comedy figures over the years and to have this painting of a local act exhibited is fantastic."

The art exhibition is running at Dudley and Museum and Art Gallery, which is facing closure as part of Dudley Council money-saving cuts.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Council's vision for theatre is revealed

EXCITING news for those of you who have been following the long-running story surrounding the Dudley Hippodrome. The council has now revealed its exciting new plans for the empty theatre.

Bright, sweeping, 'multi-functional' and gateway are among the surfeit of adjectives lavishly used to describe the new vision. And what is the new plan in question? Well you will be surprised to learn it involves another block-paving scheme.

What is it with councils and block-paving? Dudley has done pretty well with these fabled slabs in recent years. There has been the scheme in the market place, the 'civic square' in Stone Street, and the 'open-air theatre' in Coronation Gardens.

Then there's the scheme in Wolverhampton, where the council boasted it would increase 'footfall' - local authority speak for visitors - when all it seems to have done so far is caused traffic problems around the bus station and closed one of the city's oldest and nicest shops.

Look, I've got nothing against a bit of block-paving. Usually, it looks quite nice. But as a regeneration tool it is next to useless. Nobody ever comes into town to admire the floor surface.

And back to the Hippodrome. Now, I'm a realist, I know there's no magic money tree, and I don't expect the council to pour in millions of pounds. And if, in the six years since the council bought the theatre for £500,000 it had come up with an exciting scheme for the site, be it a new theatre, a museum or tourist attraction, then I would be all for it.

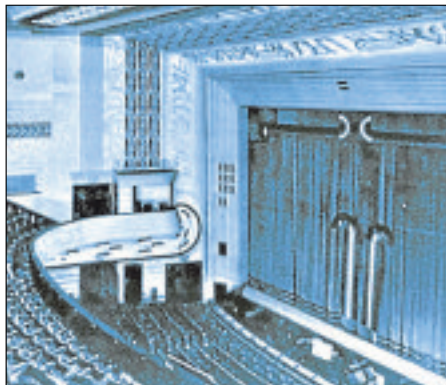
But having spent half a million on buying the theatre, the best ideas it has come up with have been a temporary car park, a conference centre and now an Alan Titchmarsh Ground Force project.

Could you imagine a private business spending this sort of money on a landmark building, not knowing what to do with it, and then knocking it down and paving over it?

The council hasn't revealed the cost of the 'bright, sweeping, multi-functional open space', but I would be surprised if it didn't run into seven figures. The market scheme cost £6.75 million, and of course there are the demolition costs, and the cost of maintaining all the shrubbery in the scheme. Money which would be better spent keeping the museum and art gallery open.

So here's a solution. The council bought the site at auction, why not do what any property developer with an abortive project would do, and stick it back in the auction? It might not get its £500,000 back, but sometimes you have to cut your losses. Let someone else have a go.

Could a private company make a go of the theatre? What else could it use the site for? I've no idea. But I bet if it was the developer's own money, it would not involve topiary and block-paving.



The interior of the Dudley Hippodrome taken 1957



The boarded up Hippodrome building in Castle Hill, Dudley



Bob Hope, right, at the Hippodrome in 1957

Final curtain set to fall on Hippodrome

Dudley's historic theatre is being lined up to become a public open space. **RICHARD GUTTRIDGE** reports

FROM Laurel and Hardy to Bob Hope and Ken Dodd - some of the biggest stars of entertainment that graced the Dudley Hippodrome stage.

This was at a time when the town had a theatre to contend with some of the best in the country.

But, after years of neglect, which has seen the once-famous venue continue to decline, the final curtain is about to fall.

Over the last few years it was hoped the historic building would make a return as a theatre as passionate campaign groups entered into discussions about rescuing the venue.

However, it now appears the long-running battle to provide the town with a theatre it can be proud of once again has been brought to an abrupt end as plans have emerged to pull it down and replace it with an open public space.

Scrapped

There was talk of a Dudley holy trinity of the Hippodrome, zoo and Black Country Living Museum being formed to boost tourism in the town.

The former theatre had been under threat of demolition for years since the council tabled plans to bulldoze the venue to make way for a temporary car park.

Plans were then revealed by Dudley Zoo to build a multi-million pound visitor centre on the site of the Hippodrome before being scrapped last year when it was revealed the facility would instead be built within the zoo grounds.

The battle to save the Hippodrome then gathered pace before being dealt a major blow earlier this year when Wolverhampton-based entertainment company The Rok Group pulled out of a proposed rescue deal.

As recently as last month, bullish leaders



The public space replacing the Hippodrome would open up views of the town's castle

of the Friends of Dudley Hippodrome group declared they could have the venue up and running again by next year. If that sounded optimistic at the time those aspirations have now been all but snuffed out as council bosses have revealed plans to demolish the building - and replace it with public open space.

The scheme has certainly come out of the blue, with interested parties having been given a guided tour of the building just a few weeks ago, leaving heritage and community groups in Dudley baffled.

Council bosses insist their plan will see the removal of a 'dilapidated' building and a 'modern public exhibition and events open space' put in its place. But the plan has already attracted fierce criticism.

West Midlands MEP and Ukip councillor Bill Etheridge said: "The Labour controlling group seem intent in wiping out our heritage

as shown by the potential closure of Dudley Museum and Art Gallery and now the people's hippodrome is on their hit list. Shame on them."

Fellow Ukip councillor Roger Scott-Dow said Dudley would be losing its 'jewel in the crown'.

He said: "The council should have worked far closer with the Friends group and other interested parties. A revitalised Hippodrome could act as a further much-needed catalyst for further regeneration."

Black Country Gaz Sawyers, co-founder of the Black Country Festival, said the proposals to bulldoze the Hippodrome had left him 'dismayed'.

"I don't understand why the council would want to destroy something and put nothing in its place, just a piece of huge open land," he said.

"It's come out of the blue and will come as a shock to a lot of people. If I had any power in what was put there, I'd want to see something that represented the musical heritage of Dudley, which used to be a thriving place for concerts and music shows."

"It's devastating to just destroy this historical building, it makes no sense at all."

Just a few months ago, comedy great Ken Dodd joined campaigners in calling for the hippodrome to be saved.

However, Councillor Patrick Harley, leader of the opposition Conservative group in Dudley, said he could understand the council's thinking. He said: "I think it's regrettable by the council that the news has broken in this manner and been dripped out to the public, but as far as I'm aware the controlling group of the Hippodrome have been left with no choice but to demolish it."

Regeneration boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said: "We've given people every opportunity to make sure we can keep the Hippodrome. Unfortunately it needs £5m to £10m to bring it back into use and that's a long shot. It's not just a gateway to Dudley town - it's a gateway to the borough. It's an important area and it could look amazing for the town and borough."

"Hopefully the people of Dudley will see the reasoning behind why we've had to make this decision."

Glory

While council chiefs have come under fire over the plans, they are right about one thing - the building is in a dilapidated state. The dormant, run-down building that currently stands on Castle Hill is a far cry from the glory years when the great and the good of showbiz would regularly top the bill in Dudley.

Built shortly after the end of the Second World War in 1938 on the site of the Dudley Opera House, which had been destroyed by fire the previous year, the theatre became a popular variety theatre until 1964. In the intervening years the likes of Judy Garland and George Formby appeared there along with rising stars such as Bruce Forsyth, while in 1947 legendary comedy double act Laurel and Hardy performed. It was later run as a bingo hall by Gala Bingo, closing in 2009.

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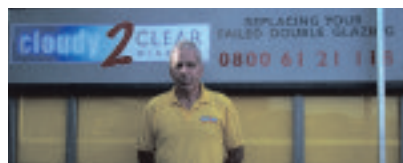
We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people

I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

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Let's get Midlands engine revving

THE announcement that the West Midlands Combined Authority will have devolved power to control its own affairs, and a metro-mayor is good news indeed. Quite apart from the extra £1bn from the Government for investment, transport projects and training, it means people in our part of the West Midlands will have a more direct say about how their own money is spent.

I congratulate Bob Sleigh, who chairs the Shadow Board of the West Midlands Combined Authority and all the metropolitan

councils and the LEPs for moving so swiftly to create a partnership and secure this deal with the government.

This kind of streamlined devolution is just what we need – more direct control over policy without an extra layer of bureaucracy and cost.

The agreement will mean more money, more autonomy and more opportunity for our region. Let's get the Midland engine really revving.

ANTHEA MCINTYRE
Conservative MEP for West Midlands

Prayer ban pandering to bigots

WE have been exhorted over the past decades not to cause offence to others.

Not causing offence has been used as the reason why all manner of things have been either banned or scaled down, but the decision by Digital Cinema Media (DCM) to ban a short advertisement featuring The Lord's Prayer has caused a large number of people to pause for thought.

The DCM are at liberty to lay down their own rules and not accepting religious material is a matter for them. However, I wonder whether they have really thought through their published reasons for refusing the advertisement?

DCM has stated they turned down the advertisement because they felt it might, or could, offend followers of other faiths or of none. In my understanding of that, DCM is saying they don't want to offend the intolerant – who else would object to the advertisement?

Is backing down to bigots really what we want?

GORDON SMITH

Dudley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

dudley.chron@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Cynics are eroding society's foundations

THERE is a romance running through your pages (Nov 26).

It is the romance that voluntarism can replace government provision, eg libraries. Another part of this romance ran through George Osborne's spending statement and it runs through the 'Metro Mayor' idea for the West – an idea rejected when it was put to the vote in Birmingham.

Yet another part of the romance is UKIP's appeal characterised by their latest reference to Enoch Powell. That speech dates to 1966, it's pre-Thatcher, we still had a manufacturing industry in those days. Ukipers are romantics for a long-gone past.

Your columns do allow re-

ality to intrude in the shape of 48,000 food parcels and hospital staff not wanting their loved ones to be admitted to where they work. It is a shocking dissonance.

One of the new Labour leadership's economic advisers has just written an article (Guardian, Nov 25) about the necessary strategic role of the state. Mariana Mazzucato has accused Osborne of 'eroding the foundations'. The Tories, of course, are too cynical to accept such an assessment.

But the consequences of this cynicism are all around us, and certainly not least in Dudley.

JOHN PAYNE
Dudley Green Party
Halesowen

Bag charge could help shoplifters

I DON'T know how successful the idea of charging people for bags is at 'saving the planet' but just sat here watching the usual adverts on TV for perfume and the like and it's just struck me.

You go into a large shop, buy whatever it is you fancy, put it into your pocket (as men do) then as you are walking out you are asked if you have paid for all your purchases?

How long will it be before someone is wrongly accused?

Or will this idea of charging for bags become, what could be called, a thieves charter?

I won't go into the details but if I've worked it out I'm sure shoplifters already have!

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Wombourne

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HOW come in the last few years there are so many cars on the road with only one headlight working?

They look like motorbikes from a distance and now the dark nights and mornings are upon us they are a hazard.

We have competitions counting how many we can see on our trips out. The total was 32 on the way back from Wolves one night. Last week 21 and two with no lights at all between Lye and Halesowen.

Come on motorists, check your lamps, you must know.

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Dental implants bring an end to hidden misery of failing teeth

Amy – not her real name – has secretly suffered with her teeth for 24 years, bravely smiling through her discomfort. Now free from oral problems, her smile holds another secret . . . thanks to one of dentistry's most creative procedures.

Amy doesn't need to say anything about her dental implants – her smile tells it's own obvious story.

Upbeat and bubbly, the Black Country care professional, who lives and breathes her work with the learning disabled, dispenses liberal amounts of infectious laughter and disarming smiles.

Youthfully middle-aged, she is confident, presents well and is clearly very proud of the achievements of her clients.

A live-in support worker, her sunny outlook and cheery disposition have regularly been challenged over the years.

Surprisingly, it's not been the relentless pressure of her work, the major rebuild of her home, or the juggling of domestic duties with the demands of being a working mum.

Amy's own life-changer, she admits, have been her teeth. "It's been my secret for years and years, but on-one would have ever known."

Problems began to emerge 24 years ago after the birth of her daughter. "I had one abscess after another.

"The problem just kept on recurring and the

My secret smile...



Steven Burchell
Dip CDT RCS(Eng)
GDC108353 – dental implants the nearest possible substitute for natural teeth

gaps between my teeth began to increase after extractions to try to ease the problem." She adds: "I simply could not let any of this get in the way of my work. I have the best job in the world – certainly the most rewarding – and my current one-to-one client is an extension of my life."

A dental crisis with broken teeth brought the catalogue of hidden problems to a head and Amy booked an emergency appointment with Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) GDC108353, who heads the clinics at the North Street Dental and Implant practice in Dudley.

"I was totally reassured by Steven, felt comfortable and at ease as he explained to me the options and that implants could be the best solution," Amy recalls.

Issues regarding teeth and pregnancy are

well documented and in some women it can trigger oral problems.

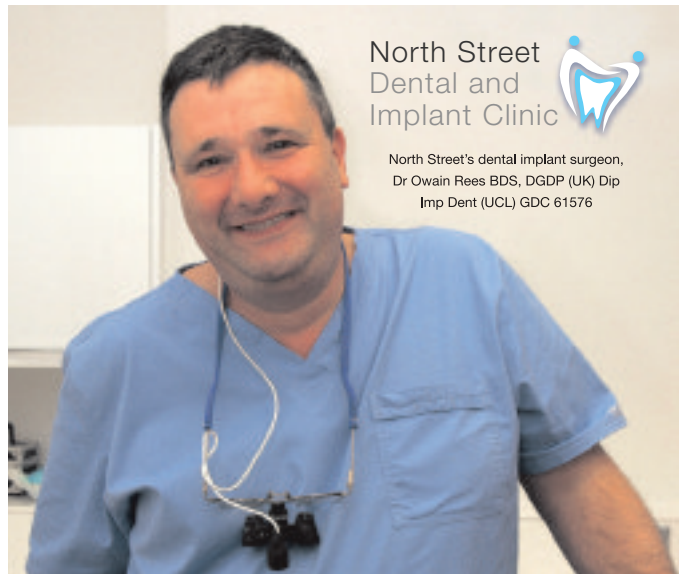
Says Steven: "During pregnancy, increased hormones can affect your body's response to plaque – the layer of germs on your teeth – but I need to assure people that getting pregnant does not automatically damage teeth. The demands of pregnancy, however, can in some instances create havoc, as it appears to have done with this patient.

"Her problem has been resolved by using dental implants, one of the most creative options modern dentistry affords and the nearest possible substitute for natural teeth. Outcomes are generally very predictable."

The implant work has reshaped Amy's smile and face, something her daughter noticed immediately and is clearly evident from pictures displayed in her home.

For anxious patients, North Street Dental and Implant Clinic can offer intravenous sedation for those undergoing surgery.

"I know it appears strange, but up until having the implants, my teeth have affected the way I lived, my food choices – no toffee or peanuts – and my self-confidence. I used to speak with my hand in front of my mouth



North Street
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North Street's dental implant surgeon,
Dr Owain Rees BDS, DGDP (UK) Dip
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where gaps had opened up between teeth at the side.

"If you look at the pictures of me with my husband my smile is nowhere near as wide as it is today. My daughter says I now smile all of the time," she says.

"I never have to worry anymore about the problems I've endured and getting the implants was really not that bad. I was back at work the next morning and no-one knew. It was certainly money well spent."

The implants were placed by Dr Owain Rees BDS, DGDP (UK) DIP IMP DENT (UCL), the clinic's implantologist.

With more than 25 years' experience as a dental implant surgeon, he initially worked as a house officer in oral surgery at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital. His surgical mentor

was the late Dennis Wedgewood MBBS BDS FDSRCS, consultant Oral and Maxillofacial surgeon.

"Very early on in my career I was exposed to implant work and placed my first implant in the late '80s. Since then I've had a special interest in this field of dentistry," says Owain.

In furthering his surgical skills, Owain undertook postgraduate implantology training with the Eastman Dental Institute. A further implant qualification followed in advanced implantology for experienced practitioners.

"It's a privilege to be part of this clinical success story," he adds.

"The name of the patient has been changed to preserve confidentiality . . . and her longstanding secret.

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Charities to benefit from guest's talk

Amblecote History Society

CHAIRMAN Pat Martin welcomed a good-sized audience of members and new visitors to the meeting at The Ruskin Centre. She recognised the importance of the day, being Armistice Day, and conducted a minute's silence in memory of those lost in The Great War and other conflicts which continue to this day.

She introduced the guest speaker David Dunham, to take the Society back to the Great War.

His presentation started with a photograph of weary troops on a Great War battlefield spattered with and walking through thick mud. That picture spoke a thousand words and set the context for David's talk about the weapons used on the battlefields.

He gave a detailed and illustrated summary of the weapons used by both sides at the outset of the war and how they developed over the years, often referring to one of the many items in his personal collection which was on display to see and to hold.

Many interesting historical photographs were projected throughout his talk showing troops of all sides with firearms that David recognised and described.

At the end there was a question and answer session with many people taking hold of David's collection.

He was formally thanked by Pat and presented with a certificate from the Amblecote History Society as a record. David waived his fee in lieu of a donation to the Royal British Legion and Help for Heroes.

Remembering the fallen across world



Deputy chairman Ann Rogers, speaker Christine Gregory, Bessie Waters and her sister

CHAIRMAN Mary Jones welcomed 36 members to the November meeting at The Lodge, Wellington Road, Dudley.

The speaker Christine Gregory talked about how Remembrance Day is honoured around the world.

Armistice Day marks the end of the First World War when the surrender documents were signed in 1919 by George V, but it is now called Remembrance Day following the end of the Second World War.

Ladies learned that two and a half million men enlisted from the British Empire and that a special Cross of Sacrifice is erected in every war cemetery that has more than 40 graves. Jamaica alone sent 20,000 vol-

Dudley South Ladies Luncheon Club

unteers and 4,000 soldiers and civilians lost their lives in Singapore. In Belgium every evening of the year the Last Post is played at the Menin Gate, the huge archway built to hold the names of 50,000 who died. Christine also covered northern France, Poland and the Netherlands where 75 per cent of its Jewish community died in Auschwitz.

The Christmas lunch is on December 11 at the Conservative Club, Sedgley, noon for 12.30pm, with guests Dudley South MP Mike Wood and Councillor Patrick Harley.

Two mark 50 years of service

Wollaston 'E' TG

CHAIRMAN Jean Latham began the November meeting by welcoming 51 members and two visitors.

Certificates for 50 years service, accompanied by potted plants, were presented to Marion Clarke and Betty Noke.

The Federation carol service is to be held in St Thomas' Church, Stour-

bridge on Saturday December 12, at 2pm. The guild's own carol service will follow on December 15, at 7.30pm, in Cobden Street Methodist Church, Wollaston. Wollaston Guild choir will be performing on both occasions. The speaker was Nigel

Wiggin, who related the inside story of Old Hall tableware. The raffle was won by Ann Turner and Lesley Wall. Competition winners were Gill Mackenzie and Elizabeth Grove.

The December 8 meeting incorporates the Christmas party. Doors to St James Church Hall will be open at 7.30pm.

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Members of £35m money laundering gang jailed

SIXTEEN members of a £35 million drugs money laundering racket have been jailed for a combined 73 years.

Crime syndicates across the country laundered their narcotics cash through the network headed by Harpal Singh Gill of Smethwick.

Gill, aged 67, of Wall Close, set up a number of bogus clothing and textile companies to disguise the operation. False invoices helped the network launder more than £35m between May 2007 and May 2013, the National Crime Agency revealed.

His son, Manjit Gill, aged 40, from George Road, Edgbaston, a singer who is also known as Foji Gill, took on the role of director for a number of the companies, receiving significant amounts of money.

Gill and his son were sentenced for money laundering offences in March this year after being found guilty at Birmingham Crown Court, receiving 11 years and five years in prison respectively. The full scale of the enterprise was revealed last week after the last four members of the network were sentenced.



Mastermind of the network Harpal Singh Gill used his status to influence others took advantage of the respect afforded to him.



Shafak Mohammed, 45, ran a bogus company to launder criminals' cash

Gill employed his friend and accountant, Gurpreet Singh Roewal, aged 50, of Lyndon Road, Solihull, who advised him and provided an air of legitimacy to the bogus companies. Roewal received eight years in jail after being found guilty of money laundering.

Others jailed were mother-of-two Smita Gareja, aged 48, from Apleshham Close, Birmingham. She was the only female to be found guilty of money laundering and received 27 months in jail. Found guilty of money laundering were Gurdev Singh Gill, 28, of Lime Avenue, Leicester, sentenced to five-and-a-half years each; Baldeep Singh Bains, 36, of Crookham Close,

Birmingham, jailed for four years; Mohammed Pervez, 40, of Harvard Road, Solihull, sentenced to seven years in prison; Prakash Chauhan, 55, of Addison Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham, jailed for five and a half years; Ranjeev Singh Rai, 33, of Dovehouse Lane, Solihull, sentenced to three years and seven months in prison.

Also sentenced were James Coulson, 28, from Liverpool, jailed for 27 months and Andrew Wilson, 60, from Bedworth, Warwickshire was given a nine month suspended jail sentence. They both admitted possessing criminal property. Santokh Singh Sangha, 62, from Leicester was imprisoned for three years and Sarup Singh Parmar, 65, from Sparkhill was jailed for 29 months. They were both found guilty of money laundering.

Bogus

Shafak Mohammed, 45, of Russells Hall Road, Dudley, who headed a bogus company and was found guilty of money laundering, was sentenced to 21 months in prison.

Sukhvinder Singh Dosanjh, 41, of Birmingham Road, Walsall, would meet couriers bringing money from other criminal gangs. He was sentenced to five and a half years in prison after being found guilty of money laundering.

Paul Risby, of the National Crime Agency, said: "Harpal Singh Gill used his position as head of his family and local businessman to influence family members and associates to be part of his criminal enterprise. He knowingly

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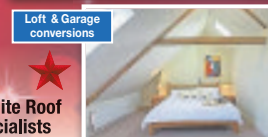
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Car rescue pair receive chief's bravery awards



Rescuers — Samantha Holland and Sergeant Lewis Hurford-John with, centre, Chief Constable Chris Sims

A POLICE officer and a passer-by have received bravery awards for a rescue where a drunk driver was saved as her car teetered on the edge of a deep ditch.

Sergeant Lewis Hurford-John was first on the scene of the crash on Dudley's Bramford Estate when the Ford Focus careered off Park Road. The vehicle came to rest with its rear hanging over an embankment.

Sgt Lewis dragged a male passenger, thrown into a ditch under the perilously positioned car, to safety while

Samantha Holland leapt on the bonnet as a counter-balance to stop it plunging into the trench.

Samantha, 25, from Brierley Hill, who works at the Bramford Arms, was joined by pub customers to help weigh down the car before fire crews arrived to tow the vehicle to safety. The female driver would not have been able to keep the vehicle grounded on her own.

Sgt Hurford-John and Samantha were honoured for their bravery at an awards ceremony where they were respectively presented with a Chief Constable's Award and Good Citizen's Award from West Midlands Chief Constable Chris Sims. Sgt Hurford-John

said: "The car was literally rocking, ready to topple. We spotted a man in the brook directly underneath the vehicle. He was clearly drunk and dazed so I ran down and dragged him out of the way. Samantha did a great job instinctively hopping on the bonnet to keep the front wheels on the ground."

Samantha added: "I sat on the bonnet for about 20 minutes before the fire brigade attached ropes to the car and dragged it away from the cut."

A 47-year-old woman from Bushbury later admitted drink driving in court was banned from driving for 20 months and told to pay £215 in fines and charges.

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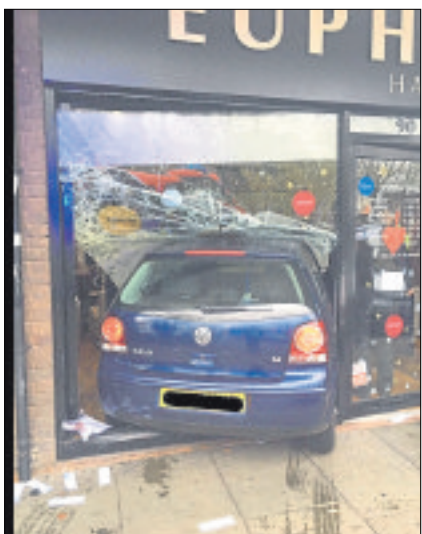
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Car smashes into hairdressing salon



The VW Polo after it crashed into the shop front at the salon in Wordsley Pictures courtesy of @FireBrierley on Twitter

A CAR smashed through the front of a hair salon in Wordsley sending staff and customers leaping out of its path. A blue VW Polo came flying through the front of Euphoria hair salon, in Lawnswood Road. The car stopped just short of bursting into the main area of the salon but caused substantial damage to the waiting area, front reception desk and display stands.

Paramedics said it was 'nothing short of a miracle' that no-one was hurt in the incident at around 11.50am on Saturday morning. An 88-year-old woman was at the wheel and was checked over by medics but did not require further treatment though she was badly shaken.

Six customers and six staff were in the salon at the time. Deborah Shaw, aged 48, who runs the salon with her daughters Natalie, 29, and Danielle, 23, said she thinks it will cost up to £10,000 to repair.

"I couldn't believe it, I was looking in the mirror and could just see things flying off the shelves as the car came ploughing through the shop window," she said. "It was terrifying, clients were screaming and jumped up."

Hate crimes on rise in wake of Paris terror

HATE crimes against Muslims in the West Midlands have increased in the wake of the Paris terror attacks, according to figures.

Anti-discrimination charity Tell MAMA, which monitors and records attacks against Muslims, said it had seen a sharp rise in incidents since the killings in the French capital last month.

The charity last week reported that it had received 12 reports of abuse in the region since the attacks and there were still more to be processed. Prior to the events in Paris it had recorded 41 in the region for the whole of 2015.

It is a trend that the charity is seeing across the country, with average weekly reports more than tripling from 35 to 115.

Spike

Tell MAMA director Fiyaz Mughal said: "There have been quite a lot of cases since the Paris attacks."

"We do see a trend that whenever there is a global incident there is a spike in anti-Muslim incidents."

"There have been more than 100 nationally since the Paris attacks and we are still processing others."

By Richard Guttridge

"Clearly there is a measurable and significant spike here and it is worrying. We know the West Midlands is an area where there has been a rise."

"From the data we have seen coming in it is going to have an effect on the number of cases police are dealing with."

The charity hosted an information session on Sunday at the DY1 centre in Dudley to try to find ways to prevent racist attacks.

Amjid Raza, of the Dudley Muslim Association, said: "We do have evidence that there has been a rise in people who are suffering abuse. It is unfortunate because we are part of society and are sad about the incidents in Paris. Terrorism has no religion."



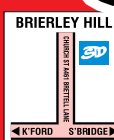
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Get rocking around on a Christmas spree

THE COUNTDOWN to Christmas features festive treats for music fans in Birmingham and the Black Country.

First up, tonight (Thu) The Courteeners continue their rise with a gig in Wolverhampton that's been upgraded from the Wulfrun to the Civic Hall due to public demand for tickets.

The band, who recently put out an expanded edition of their 2014 top three album Concrete Love (subtitled Extra Love), will be playing the Civic as part of a sold out UK tour.

The group from Middlesbrough, between Rochdale and Manchester, are crowning their most successful year to date with a new Christmas song, the soaring seasonal Winter Wonderland by frontman Liam Fray. Profits from sales of the track will be donated to help the homeless via charity Shelter.

Flocking

Fans of hard-hitting dance music with a punk attitude will be flocking to the Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham city centre tonight for the return of The Prodigy, who achieved their sixth consecutive chart-topping album with The Day Is My Enemy this year. Don't be late, because support comes from the mighty Public Enemy.

Birmingham's Duran Duran are back with a new album, Paper Gods, but expect Rio and other old favourites when Simon Le Bon and co play the Genting Arena at the NEC tomorrow night (Fri). Veteran rock fans will be out in force for Status Quo at the Barclaycard Arena on Saturday with their Accept No Substitute UK winter tour. Support comes from R&B guitar great and remarkable survivor Wilko Johnson.

Relish a rock band at the peak of their powers when Stereophonics let rip with C'est La Vie, I Wanna Get Lost With You and other tracks from their recent Keeping The Village Alive and 2013's hugely successful Graffiti On The Train albums at the Genting



The Courteeners comes to Wolverhampton Civic as part of a sold out UK



Welsh rockers Stereophonics have a December 11 gig at the Genting Arena

Arena on December 11. The Welsh outfit fronted by Kelly Jones have a reputation as one of the best live bands on the music scene with their no-nonsense raw rock approach.

Monsters of rock Def Leppard and Whitesnake join forces at the Genting on December 12 and then the smooth soul sounds of Simply Red will be heard at the Genting on December 13 and 15, with support from Natalie Imbruglia. Then it's time for a megastar when Madonna hits town on December 16 to play the Barclaycard Arena as part of her Rebel Heart Tour. One

of the best party atmospheres is likely to be at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on December 19 when Stourbridge indie band Ned's Atomic Dustbin have organised the inaugural Kill Your Television Festival, and will treat fans to the band's first new song for 21 years, in anticipation of the gig.

The Neds have performed numerous sell-out shows at the venue in recent years. Tickets for the gig, which will also feature The Wedding Present, The Primitives and Eat, plus a return for legendary indie club night Blast Off, are still on sale.

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Star singer Adele on way to Brum

SUPERSTAR singer Adele will come to Birmingham next year as part of her first tour in four years.

She will perform at the Genting Arena on March 29 and 30 as part of her UK and European tour.

The singer, who last month released her much-anticipated third album 25, will also play dates in Dublin, Manchester, London and Glasgow as well as European dates including Paris, Berlin, Barcelona and Amsterdam.

The chart-topping 27-year-old, who gave birth to a son, Angelo, during her break from the music scene, had major hits with the theme to Bond movie Skyfall and Someone Like You.

Tickets for the UK shows go on general sale at 9am tomorrow (Fri).

Young left 'unprepared' for world of work, says boss

SCHOOLS and businesses across the West Midlands are 'worlds apart' when it comes to getting young people ready for work, a leading businessman has warned.

The comments from Martin Dudley, head of the Thomas Dudley engineering group, come as research shows two-thirds of businesses believe secondary schools are not preparing youngsters for work.

The survey of more than 3,500 business and education leaders by the British Chambers of

Commerce urged schools to hold lessons around recruitment and interview techniques, and to put direct contact with businesses at the heart of careers guidance.

Mr Dudley, also chairman of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce skills group, said: "Our latest research shows that businesses and schools are still worlds apart when it comes to getting young people ready for the world of work."

"Businesspeople across the Black Country believe that secondary schools need to do more to help young people transition into employment.

This needs to be more than just arranging careers fairs that tick the careers engagement box.

"High youth unemployment and skills gaps are a cause for national embarrassment. Unless ministers allow schools to increase their focus on preparing students for the working world, we could fail an entire generation of young people."

Just one in five businesses think secondary schools are either very effective or fairly effective at preparing young people for work with 72 per cent of businesses saying secondary schools are not very effective or not effective at all at preparing young people for work.

Housing still a council priority

DUDLEY Council's housing boss has highlighted the authority's commitment to social housing, despite the wave of savings which are on the way after Government funding cuts.

A 'Better For Less' meeting held to discuss the current funding problems was attended by more than 60 people at Saltwells Education Development Centre.

Councillor Gaye Partridge, cabinet member for housing, said: "Dudley Council believes in the importance of social housing and we will continue to provide the best possible service to customers, even though we are receiving ongoing cuts in Government funding. We were able to find out views and how our service could improve, whilst saving on expenditure."

Fire crew rescue raccoons



Nuna, one of the raccoons, with owner Hannah Nott after being rescued from a fire

A PAIR of pet raccoons had a lucky escape after a fire broke out in a garden shed next to their cage, where they were found to be 'clinging on for dear life'.

Nuna and Buddha desperately tried to escape their cage after flames took hold of Iris Nott's shed in the back garden of her Oldbury home.

The creatures belong to her daughter Hannah Nott, 32, who is in the process of setting up her own animal charity.

Smoke

Crew commander Chris Green said: "They were clinging on for dear life. The raccoons were right on the far side away from the fire and we used a big fan to blow the smoke away from them."

Hannah Nott said: "The raccoons are my life and I'm just so overjoyed that they're

OK. We didn't expect them to come out alive. I was beside myself seeing them clinging onto the cage but luckily fire crews helped me get them out and straight to the vets."

The raccoons were taken to Manor Vets on Kent Road, Halesowen, and were given a clean bill of health.

The cause of the fire, which happened at around 6pm on Wednesday, November 25, is believed to have been caused by a tumble dryer in the shed.

Mrs Nott, aged 68, who lives with her daughter at the property, said: "It was a very scary time and touch and go for Nuna and Buddha. They were hanging on tightly to the top of the cage, frightened. The fire service were unbelievably quick to the house. If it wasn't for that I don't think the raccoons would have made it."

DJs flock to city to celebrate music

TOP radio DJs will be descending on Birmingham in the build up to the BBC Music Awards next week.

Sara Cox, Annie Mac, Jo Whiley and Charlie Sloth will be hosting events in the city, including music business workshops and free live showcases, before the awards concert takes place at the Genting Arena on December 10.

Highlights include a discussion on songwriting at the Glee Club on Monday afternoon involving Tom Robinson, Jarvis Cocker, Guy Garvey and Terry Hall; plus debates on women in the music industry and how to make money from music. BBC Introducing gigs to highlight West Midlands musicians will take place at The Obleck in Digbeth, the Hare & Hounds in Kings Heath and the CBSO Centre. A list of events can be seen on bbc.co.uk/musicawards

The afternoon awards show hosted by Chris Evans and Fearnie Cotton will feature such big names as One Direction, Coldplay and Sir Tom Jones.

Sea Life rays a smile

THE National Sea Life Centre Birmingham has received an early Christmas present from Australia – the UK's first captive bred Fiddler Rays.

The six Eastern Fiddler Rays, which can be recognised by their triangular pattern behind the eyes, have arrived from Sea Life Manly, near Sydney, as part of Sea Life's international Breed Rescue Protect Programme. The male and female rays were 30cm long on arrival but can grow to 1.2 metres in length.

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Award for couple who have cared for 70 children

MEMBERS of a bowling club in Kingswinford face a staggering rise of up to £12,000 in the fees they pay to Dudley Council, under plans by the authority to get clubs to pay more for green maintenance.

The council, which needs to save £20 million by 2018, currently pays to maintain the greens at each of Dudley's eight bowling clubs. Clubs themselves pay £750 towards those costs.

Dennis Joshua, of Dudley Sports Bowling Club, said: "We are elderly people who come here to socialise. Now we're being told we've got to find £12,000 a year or mow the green ourselves. It is absolutely disgusting. It's an astronomical rise."

Councillor Hilary Bills said: "Unfortunately the council will not have the money to support activities like this. We are trying to give them options."

Public have a say on homes

RESIDENTS will be consulted over an £18 million housing scheme seeing homes built on old garage sites, including at Marley Road in Kingswinford.

A contract has been agreed by Dudley Council and Cannock developers Jessup Brothers for homes to be built for council tenants.

On January 20 there will be a meeting over the Marley Road site between 3pm and 7pm at The Dingle Community Centre.

THEY'VE looked after more than 70 children over nearly 30 years — and now Peter and Pat Coyne have been given a long service award for their dedication and care.

The couple, of Chelford Crescent, Kingswinford, received their award at the Barnardo's Midlands celebration evening at the Cophthorne Hotel, Dudley. Peter, aged 72, and Pat, 69, are currently the longest-serving foster carers with Barnardo's Midlands Overnight Short Breaks.

By David Callaghan

It all started when their first son, Stephen, was born with cerebral palsy and the couple became actively involved with care groups. He died in 2003, just before his 40th birthday. They have four other children, Julie, aged 50, Nikki, 47, David, 44, and Ash, 19.

Despite being parents and grandparents, the couple said they enjoyed sharing their home with other people's children too.

Mr Coyne said: "Our late son had cerebral palsy so we were involved with a local club for children with special needs. A community nurse asked if we would be interested in supporting a new short-breaks service, which was then being run by the local authority."

"We thought it would be a nice way for the two of us to work together in our own home, allowing us to give something back to the community."

"You definitely need a sense of humour, a lot of patience and a lot of love but all of the children have a special place in our hearts."

The couple currently care for two children, one comes for tea two evenings a week, and the other stays overnight once a week.

Mrs Coyne said: "Parents entrust you with their precious child so you have to earn their respect and their trust, but they are so grateful for the support."

"It gives parents valuable time to take care of their other children who can sometimes be left out due to the demands of looking after a disabled sibling."

"Life-long friendships are established. We still keep in touch with many of the families."

Barnardo's MOSB is based at Centre Court in Vine Lane, Halesowen.



Kingswinford couple Peter and Pat Coyne with an award from Banardo's for their 29 years service as foster carers

Show is one step beyond Madness

A SHOW featuring the music of pop group Madness is being staged at Crestwood School from Tuesday to Thursday.

Kingswinford school in December which boasts a cast and crew of more than 50 students, including a gorilla, clown and a ghost.

The award-winning musical by Tim Firth will be performed at Crestwood School, Bromley Lane, Kingswinford, involving a cast and crew of more than 50 students.

The musical tells the story of a teenager, played by Josh Armstrong, about to make a life-changing decision. Helped by his best mates, played by Ellis Walters and Lewis Johnson, he wonders if 'It Must Be Love' with his girlfriend, played by Meredith Penn.

Tickets (£6, £25 for five) are available from the school or on (01384) 816535.

Lost sons are remembered

A NEW book, called The Lost Sons of Wall Heath and Kingswinford, chronicles the lives of the men listed on the war memorial in Wall Heath.

The book, which is the culmination of thousands of hours of research by Joy Marshall and her husband Guy, will go on sale at John Sparry's book shop in Enville Road, Wall Heath, from December 5.

It can also be ordered by calling Joy Marshall on 07739 572121.

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Pan's 'Lost Boys' need sensible girls

REVIEW

by Leon Burakowski

Wendy & Peter Pan,
Royal Shakespeare Theatre,
Stratford-upon-Avon

GIRL power comes to Neverland in the Royal Shakespeare Company's gently feminist revamp of JM Barrie's magical story about the boy who never grows up.

But don't let the F word put you off — this production is very funny, full of magic, music and dance, it just makes it clear that 'lost boys' need sensible girls.

As the title suggests, in playwright Ella Hickson's reboot it is Wendy Darling who is the main character, trying to cope with an impetuous childish Pan who literally flies away from serious issues, like commitment. In the end she saves the day in alliance with Neverland's other girls, Tinkerbell and Tiger Lily.

First staged by the RSC two years ago, this spectacular production has been enhanced and returns sharper than before. But a running time of just under three hours, including interval, may challenge younger children.

It is very cleverly written with jokes pitched at both adult and younger audiences, including Shakespearean references along with various recent catchphrases and a couple of Barrie's most memorable lines.

This production benefits from the involvement of RSC associate actors such as the expressive Mariah Gale as a feisty Wendy and Darrel O'Silva as a melancholy, cynical and eloquent Captain Hook.

Comic support comes from the Lost Boys, including Lawrence Walker playing Tootles with a Black Country accent. Paul Kemp as Smee, Hook's devoted and clearly head-over-heels-



Rhys Rusbatch as Peter Pan with Mariah Gale as Wendy Photo by Manuel Harlan

in-love first mate, dreams of sharing a cosy cottage with his cap'n. But the biggest guffaws are prompted by Adam Gillen's shrieking cabin boy, a Neverland reworking of his awkward young hairdresser character in hit TV show Benidorm.

Shadows

Welsh actor Rhys Rusbatch seems relegated to a supporting role as Peter, but whether lofted about by his pack of shadows or leading the characters on wires through the air — the set does resemble a human mobile — he has charisma as a punky-looking Pan. Meanwhile, Charlotte Mills as Tinkerbell almost steals the show as a hefty Cockney fairy with a sharp tongue.

Don't underestimate this play's

emotional impact. It also has interesting things to say about bereavement. Keep a hanky handy for the scene when Wendy and her brothers are finally reunited with their own lost boy, a sibling who died.

The only caution I would offer parents of younger children is that Hook's murder of an insolent pirate and Arthur Kyeeyune's creepy contorted human crocodile may be a little too scary for some under-10s.

This production is much more substantial than the usual well-meaning but instantly forgettable festive fare in theatreland at this time of year — it makes you think as well as laugh. Wendy & Peter Pan continues in repertoire at Stratford until the end of January.

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Minion mania grips Merry Hill malls



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MINION mayhem took over Merry Hill shopping centre, as part of a tour across the country to celebrate the release of their film.

In a sold-out show, hundreds of fans got the chance to meet Kevin, Stuart and Bob 'in person' and enjoy a photo opportunity, as well as winning prizes celebrating the re-

lease of Minions on Blu-Ray, Blu-Ray 3D and DVD. Everyone's favourite goggle-wearing yellow sidekicks caused a festive frenzy at the centre on Sunday.

From noon until 4pm some 500 people took part in meet and greets with the loveable animated characters that first appeared in the Despicable Me movies.

Homes plan for 'eyesore'

UP TO 180 jobs will be created under plans to build 60 homes on an 'eyesore' factory site on the edge of a Dudley nature reserve.

The scheme is earmarked for the former Kuehne and Nagel UK buildings in Netherton. The project would create around 180 construction jobs according to developer Persimmon Homes West Midlands.

Outline planning permission for the site at Saltwells Road has been granted by Dudley Council and it has now been sold to Persimmon Homes.

Persimmon has applied to the authority for reserved matters to build 62 homes with a decision due soon.

Ward councillor Jackie Cowell welcomed the move to redevelop an 'eyesore' site. She said: "This is a good thing as it's just been a fairly miserable location for quite some time.

We do need more development in the borough and desperately need more homes. This will bring new people into Dudley borough and jobs will be created as well."

The four-acre site is next to the Saltwells Nature Reserve, which covers 247 acres, and is an area of outstanding natural beauty. It also backs on to Mushroom Green conservation area.

Persimmon has applied to build two, three, four and five-bedroom homes.

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Defiant — a group of Cradley Heath women chainmakers seen during the lock out in 1910



Women chainmakers of Cradley Heath on the march



Women's work — a workshop staffed by female chainmakers in Cradley Heath

Heritage project aims to preserve history of strike

THE proud history of the Black Country's female chainmakers is to feature in a new heritage project hoping to preserve the past before it is too late.

Pictures of artefacts and recordings made by the ancestors of chainmakers will be uploaded on a new website being set up by The Friends of the Women Chainmakers.

The group was formed to preserve the industrial heritage of the Black Country and celebrate the role that women played.

To kick start the project, the group is seeking ancestors of female chainmakers and of women who worked in other industries to share their family's story.

Chair Lesley Bates, said: "There are two sides to what we are doing with this project. One will look at the heritage side and involved speaking to the grandchildren and the great-grandchildren of the women chainmakers.

MEMORY LANE

By Rob Cox

"The other side will reflect on what women's work was like in the Black Country and Cradley Heath and whether it has changed at all in the last 100 years."

The 1910 Women Chainmakers' strike, led by Mary Macarthur and supported by the women of Cradley Heath, was pivotal in labour history and a significant step in the development of a universal minimum wage.

During a visit to Empire Theatre in Cradley Heath, union leader Macarthur saw poverty and was shocked by the infant mortality rate.

After she persuaded chainmaker bosses to set a minimum wage, she was left angry when they found a loophole that meant that the wage increase could be held back by nine months. This enabled them to stockpile chain and then lay off workers before the increase.

In response, Macarthur organised strikes

at chainmakers, the first being in Graingers Lane. The strike lasted 10 weeks until employers finally agreed to meet their demands.

Mrs Bates, added: "Mary Macarthur was very good at using the media. She made a film which went out to cinemas, including in the United States.

"This was really important stuff that resulted in the Workers' Institute at Cradley Heath, now at the Black Country Living Museum."

The group intend to apply for heritage lottery funding and will look to provide work packs for schools.

The motivation is to record accounts of the historic events for future generations.

Mrs Bates, added: "If we do not do something about it quickly there will not be people who have even second or third hand memories of the women chainmakers. The strike itself was such an important event but because this was a women's issue it does not tend to have the same prominence."

Contact Mrs Bates on 07816 480584.



Leader speaks — trade unionist and women's rights campaigner Mary Macarthur addresses the strikers

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Rebecca going to be Freezin' with Fizzogs



Rebecca Fuller, right, with the director of Stourbridge-based Drama Workshop Esther Stanford

A YOUNG Dudley actress who has just completed a Channel 4 series will next be seen working with the Fizzogs on their up and coming Freezin tour.

Rebecca Fuller, aged 19, has just completed filming in Manchester for show Raised by Wolves, playing the part of Stacey and earlier this year she also featured in Lenny Henry's BBC drama Danny and the Human Zoo. She will now be starring as Clarrie in the Fizzogs show, which will run four West Midlands venues until the end of February.

Rebecca has been a member of Stourbridge-based Drama Workshop, at Chawn Hill Church, for four years. The weekly drama school is for youngsters aged seven to 18.

Director of Drama Workshop Esther Stanford said: "When Rebecca first joined, she was very quiet but you could tell she was naturally talented. She can play straight roles but is equally at home in comedy. She has the ability to improvise, is full of ideas and a real grafter."

Black Country panto Freezin will be performed at Netherton Arts Centre from December 10 to 12. See www.thefizzogs.com

Let there be lights at community celebrations

A COMMUNITY Christmas celebration is being held on Saturday in Gornal as the borough gears up for the festive season.

Ellowes Hall Tenants and Residents Association with the Gornal Together initiative have raised money to decorate the area for the festive period.

Santa will arrive in Gornal at 5pm with the Christmas lights being switched on at 6pm. There will be live music and other entertainment with refreshments available.

Councillor Gaye Partridge said: "It is brilliant to see the local community coming together to bring festive cheer to the area of Gornal, a real demonstration of how much they love their community. Gornal Together works hard for the residents in this area of the borough and Ellowes Hall are very active on our estates."

Stourbridge

"Shops will be decorating their windows in a festive theme, which will be judged on the night."

Meanwhile, Stourbridge will be full of festive fun and seasonal shopping when the town hosts its Christmas lights switch-on on

By Alex Ross

Saturday, Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Steve Waltho, will conduct the official switch-on of the lights at 5pm.

Before the town is lit up, there will be lots of entertainment and activities from 11am in High Street, Market Street, Coventry Street, Duke Street, Crown Square and the Ryemarket.

Stourbridge's Christmas market runs from 9am to 5pm and there will be a fun-fair, entertainment, steam engines, a miniature steam train and Father Christmas.

The event is organised by Dudley Council in conjunction with Stourbridge Chamber of Trade and Ryemarket Shopping Centre. St Thomas' Church is also holding a special Christmas tree event.

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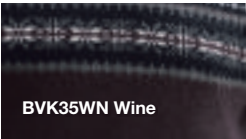
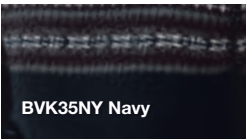
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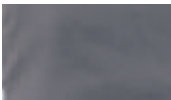
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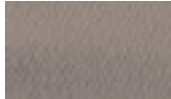
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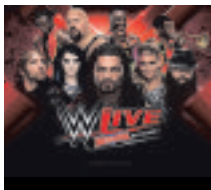
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O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Ash
Wed at 7pm, £17
Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall, WV1 1RQ. 0870 320 7000

The Levellers
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Maxi Jazz And The E-Type Boys
Wed at 7pm,
The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY. Call 0121 643 0428

Caro Emerald
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Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Hazel O'Connor
Sun at 6.30pm - 11pm, £22 The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

Labour Of Love: UB40 Tribute
Sat - Sun at 7.30pm - 2am, £8
The River Rooms, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN. Call 01384 397177

The Dead Daisies
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Major Toms
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Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ. Call 0844 870 0000

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The Boars Head, Kidderminster, DY10 1EW. Call 01562 861870

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The Grapes, Stafford, ST16 2HZ. Call 07989 174631

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Arena Aldridge, Walsall, WS9 8QR. Call 0844 884 2920

Roy Wood Rockmas
Sun at 7pm,
Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, B1 2AA. Call 0121 780 4141

Gig Caritas Xmas Show
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Performance Platform: Liang Shan
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Birmingham Conservatoire, Birmingham City University, B3 3HG. Call 0121 331 5901

Birmingham Children's Hospital Christmas Concert
Wed at 7.45pm - 9.45pm,
Birmingham Cathedral, Birmingham, B3 2QB. Call 0121 262 1840

Christmas Celebration Concert
Sat at 7pm - 10.30pm,
The Bonded Warehouse, Stourbridge, DY8 4LU. Call 01384 395216

Christmas Carol Concerts
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Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

The Nativity 2015
Wed at 7.30pm - 9pm, Thu at 7.30pm - 9pm,
St Paul's Church, Birmingham, B3 1QZ. Call 0121 236 7858

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Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Guys And Dolls
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New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS. Call 0844 871 3011

Jack And The Beanstalk
Mon - Thu at 10.30am, 1.30pm,
Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

White Christmas: South Staffs Musical Theatre Company
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, £10 - £19.50
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

Dynamo
Wed at 8pm, Thu at 8pm, £33.20 - £99.70
Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, B1 2AA. Call 0121 780 4141

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Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR. Call 01543 412121

Thu at 8pm, £19 - £21
Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall, WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

Justin Moorhouse: Destiny Calling
Thu at 8pm, £15
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Comedy In The Met
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Fri at 8pm
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An Evening With Noel Fielding
Sat at 8pm, £25
Wolverhampton Civic Hall, WV1 1RQ. 0870 320 7000

OTHER EVENTS

The Christmas Story For Young Children And Their Carers (Ages 0-5)
Fri at 10.30am,
Birmingham Cathedral, B3 2QB. Call 0121 262 1840

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Dream of a Grand White Christmas

WITH weather forecasts threatening the white stuff and yuletide fast approaching, festive favourite, *White Christmas*, staged by South Staffs Musical Theatre Company, has arrived at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre.

The musical opened this week and continues through to Saturday with nightly performances at 7.30pm, plus a 2.30pm matinee on Saturday.

Irving Berlin's classic Christmas offering, which became a 1954 movie starring Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney and Vera Allen, is a relatively new stage adaptation for amateur performance.

The score includes a host of well-known songs including Count Your Blessings, Let Yourself Go, Happy Holidays, Blue Skies, I Love A Piano and, of course, the title song.

Simon McGee from Lower Gornal is playing Bing Crosby's character, Bob Wallace. "It was a fantastic feeling when I found out I had got the part of Bob Wallace in *White Christmas*," says Simon. "I mean, to play the male lead in this wonderful show at Christmas is the icing on the cake in a very special year for me."

"It has been an amazing experience, but very challenging, especially the dancing. I think I have lost a stone in weight during the gruelling regime that our choreographer, Maria Shee has put us through."

"I love playing opposite Lexie Bennett who plays Betty Hayes, Rebecca Haydon who plays her sister, Judy, and my cheeky chappy partner in



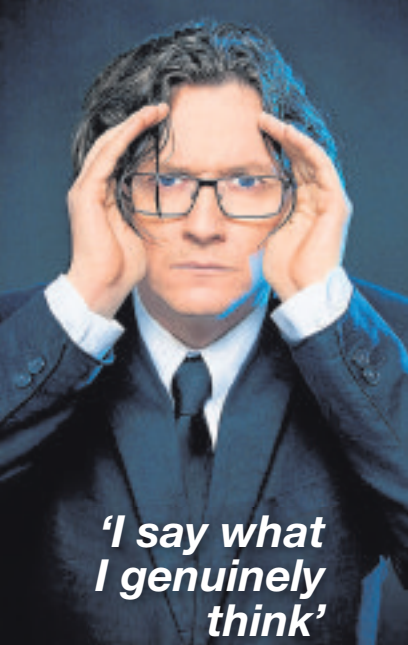
Rebecca Haydon and Lexie Bennett star in *White Christmas* at the Grand Theatre

crime, Luke Renwick who plays my sidekick, Phil Davis. We have had such a good giggle during rehearsals."

Lexie Bennett plays Bob's reluctant love interest, Betty Hayes, with Rebecca Haydon as her sister Judy. The girls have had great fun with their roles and in particular have enjoyed

singing the classic duet Sisters complete with huge feather fans.

With tap dancing, superb score, heart-warming storyline, snow falling on stage and on the audience, and a huge Christmas tree, who could ask for more? Call 01902 429212 or visit www.grandtheatre.co.uk



'I say what I genuinely think'

Family life inspires Ed

MOCK the Week star Ed Byrne is an established touring favourite, and despite his youthful looks the Irishman recently marked up 20 years as a comic.

His latest show of observational comedy, *Outside, Looking In*, is at the Wulfrun Hall in Wolverhampton next Thursday (December 10) before the tour returns to the West Midlands at Birmingham Town Hall on February 19.

The new show covers a wide range of subjects – from a gastric illness to UKIP – but he talks a lot about his family. It's his most personal yet.

"I didn't make a conscious effort to write a more personal show, but that was what was coming out when I started writing it," Ed says.

"People come to see me for a laugh and I would like to think they go away thinking the show is quite heartwarming. A lot of comics may talk about the same stuff, but what makes it mine is that what I'm saying is what I genuinely think on this subject, and I try to make it as funny as I can. I think we all mine our lives to some degree or other."

Ed is adamant that he will keep his two young sons out of the celebrity spotlight, but in *Outside, Looking In*, he shows a picture of one of his sons – the denouement of a bittersweet story about buying new shoes – which not only illustrates it perfectly, but produces an "Aaaaah" moment.

"I'm aware that they haven't given me permission to talk about them and that there will come a point when I can't," Ed says. "I talk about them in pretty abstract terms, because what I'm discussing is the act of parenting, and you can't talk about that without mentioning your own children."

Music and laughter will rock the Robin

JAZZ and funk fans will be heading for Bilston's Robin 2 venue on Sunday for a rare Midlands appearance by the American vibes player Roy Ayers and his Band. On stage at 8.30, Ayers has had R&B hits and been an inspiration to both acid jazz and hip-hop scenes.

Other tasty gigs at the Mount Pleasant venue include The Jam's bassist Bruce Foxton in the From The Jam Sound Affects Show tomorrow (Fri). Metal legends Tygers of Pan Tang on Monday, and the comedy genius of Neil Innes with his Beatles parody *The Rutles* on Tuesday. Wednesday sees the return of Worcestershire rock 'n' roller Mike Sanchez & The Portions.

Dynamo bringing his first live tour

TV magician Dynamo is bringing his Seeing Is Believing show to Birmingham Barclaycard Arena for five consecutive nights from Wednesday. He has added an extra performance at 2.30pm on December 12.

The hip street magician from Bradford, real name Steven Frayne, has amazed viewers with stunts that have included walking on water on the Thames and levitating above London skyscraper The Shard.

Dynamo says: "I am hoping that like I did for magic on TV, I can reinvent the live magic show and produce something fans have never seen before." Tickets start from £37.25.

Guy decides to get busier at 40

TAKING a break from his day job as the frontman of Ramsbottom's finest alternative rock quartet Elbow, Guy Garvey will be at the O2 Academy Birmingham tonight (Thu), touring in support of his debut solo effort, the critically-acclaimed *Court-ting The Squall*.

Why a solo album? He says: "I'm pretty sure it was the 40 thing. Around 40, I thought, I'm officially a middle-aged man. I should do more work. There should be more output than 10 songs every two years. I flung myself at it. There's a vastness to Elbow records, in places, almost a regal thing. This record is more rough and ready."

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Discerning and well-Red

With a bounty of exotic dishes to choose from, **MARK SHIPP** found India Red restaurant was the hottest ticket in town

"WE know there's competition, but if everyone knows their palate and knows their own food, they will tell the difference."

So says Zub Ahmed, proprietor of the India Red Restaurant in Hednesford. Having been there for 12 years, Zub and his restaurant have become established fixtures.

But, with a cluster of Indian restaurants within such a short distance, he knows he has to stay ahead of the game to keep his regular customers happy.

With that in mind, the menu is changed on a regular basis to offer new dishes, while the chef is known for either creating new lines or putting his own stamp on traditional ones.

And, it's fair to say that the 110-seat restaurant is doing very nicely for itself, thank you.

Ushered

It was a busy night in the Market Street premises when my partner and I ventured out. We had to wait a while for our meals, but that was no problem. The best things come those who wait, they say, and I always believe that quick service does not always represent the best quality. On this occasion, the food really was worth the wait. And there was enough left over for a mini-feast the following day.

Seating downstairs at India Red is provided for couples or small parties, while upstairs tends to cater for the larger groups. As it is open plan, however, my better half did comment on how noisy it might be.

Decor-wise India Red is tastefully done, with background music that one tends not to notice as it does little to drown out the general hub-bub from the diners.



The outside view of India Red restaurant, which can be found at 44, Market Street, Hednesford



The tasteful decor on show with seating available for over 100

Minor quibbles aside, the food is the main attraction. The poppadoms were moreish, but served only to whet the appetite for what was to come. We were asked to try out a range of starters, and other menu items we had not ordered found their way to our table. Generous, and obviously done to impress.

But while appreciated, it was also unnecessary as we felt suitably plished. And we'd already been impressed by the fare.

Zub explained that his Bangladeshi chef

had served eight years at India Red, but was always looking to improve on standards. He even took the time, despite the hectic evening, to explain some of the methods and ingredients behind some of the dishes.

Take the malai kofta, for example, meatballs in a sweet and spicy cheese sauce. It contains yoghurt and honey to give it that sweetness, and perfectly offset the Amritsar chicken, with its hidden kick due to garam masala and panch puran mix.

That was just a taster. The menu comprises traditional dishes and India Red specials, but the beauty is that each dish is colour-coordinated according to the heat factor, from a sweet and creamy grey to a red vindaloo hot.

My other half didn't need to worry about her tried and trusted makhani chicken, while I stepped into the unknown for the salmon surprise, the twist being that it actually wasn't a curry – and it came with chicken, in tiny pieces, added to a bed of mashed potatoes.

Not what I was expecting. Good, though, but without a curry it was dry, so the beef haleem – a newcomer to the menu – was a welcome accompaniment. And what a curry that was. It was mild, but had a tangy taste, emanating from its mix of spices, sugar and vinegar. Worth a visit for that alone.

India Red is open Sunday to Thursday from 5.30 to 11.30pm and until 1am on Friday and Saturday. It is currently taking bookings for Christmas. Call 01543 424769 or 426611.

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CHOICE



Stephen Mulhern

Catchphrase Celebrity Couples Special (ITV, 5.45pm)
The latest series of Stephen Mulhern's revived version of the classic game show comes to a conclusion with a Catchphrase first. Although Mulhern has presided over six star-studded one-offs during his two-year tenure, this will be the first celebrity couples special. He invites This Morning presenters Eamonn Holmes and Ruth Langsford, comedian/actors Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer, and former Westlife singer Brian McFadden and his now ex-wife, Irish model Vogue Williams, to 'say what they see'. The famous duos attempt to correctly identify popular phrases based on illustrative cartoons, in the hope of score enough points to win a cash prize for their charity of choice.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30 Simply Nigella.** (R) **12.00 BBC News:** Weather. **12.10 Football Focus.** **1.00 Live Snooker:** UK Championship. Coverage of the first semi-final from York. **4.30 Final Score.** **5.20 Celebrity Mastermind.** (R) **5.50 BBC News.**
6.00 Regional Programme.
6.10 Pointless Celebrities. Peter Ratcliffe, Jeff Salmon, Jacqueline Gold, Richard Farleigh, Tim Campbell, Saira Khan, Michelle Monie and Declan Curry take part in a business-themed edition of the quiz.
7.00 Strictly Come Dancing. The six remaining couples take part in routines celebrating popular musical numbers from the stage and screen, with the two least successful pairs facing a dance-off tomorrow.
8.00 Doctor Who. The Doctor faces a bittersweet homecoming as, betrayed and trapped, with both his hearts broken, he demonstrates just how far he would be willing to go if someone took everything he cared about from him. With his quest to reach Gallifrey seemingly over, the Time Lord engages his own people in a struggle that will take him to the very end of time itself, but who is the mysterious "Hybrid" mentioned in the Gallifreyan prophecy? And just what was it the Doctor left behind as his "confession"? Peter Capaldi stars in the series finale, but will return later this year alongside Alex Kingston's River Song for the traditional Christmas special. Last in the series.
9.05 Casualty. The onset of winter and harsh conditions give some people a chance to come together, but also threaten to tear others apart. Medical drama, starring Amanda Mealing.
9.55 The National Lottery Live. Ore Oduba presents as the all-important winning numbers are revealed.
10.05 BBC News: Weather.
10.25 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches; National Lottery Update.
11.55 The Apprentice. (R)
12.55 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.00 BBC News.**

BBC2

6.10 Race to Super Bowl 50. (R) **7.00 Film:** The Amazing Mr Blunden. (1972) Children's fantasy, starring Laurence Naismith. **8.35 Film:** Beverly Hills Chihuahua. (2008) Comedy, with the voice of Drew Barrymore. **10.00 Ronnie's Animal Crackers.** (R) **10.30 Ronnie's Animal Crackers.** (R) **11.00 The Wonder of Animals.** **11.30 Animal Park.** (R) **12.00 My Life on a Plate.** (R) **12.45 Len and Ainsley's Big Food Adventure.** (R) **1.30 Len and Ainsley's Big Food Adventure.** (R) **2.15 Film:** Saboteur. (1942) Alfred Hitchcock's thriller, starring Robert Cummings. **4.00 Flog It!** Trade Secrets. **4.30 Live Snooker:** UK Championship. Further coverage of the first semi-final from York. **5.30 The Great Pottery Throw Down.** (R)
6.30 Dad's Army. Mainwaring orders Wilson to bring the platoon back from a grudge match against the ARP wardens' darts team and get the men back on parade. The captain then takes a call warning of a suspected terrorist in Walmington-on-Sea and decides to deal with the situation himself. Comedy first broadcast in 1970, starring Arthur Lowe and John Le Mesurier. (R)
7.00 Live Snooker: UK Championship. Hazel Irvine introduces coverage of the second semi-final from the Barbican Centre in York, as the tournament widely regarded as the second-most prestigious on the calendar continues. Last year's semi-finals saw Ronnie O'Sullivan, Stuart Bingham, Judd Trump and Stephen Maguire battling it out for a place in the showpiece match. O'Sullivan narrowly defeated Bingham and Trump overcame Maguire to set up a mouthwatering clash between two of the sport's most charismatic characters. With commentary by Steve Davis, Ken Doherty and Stephen Hendry.
10.00 00 XL. Extended edition. Noel Fielding, Ross Noble and Colin Lane join regular panellist Alan Davies as host Stephen Fry asks a range of unusual questions on the topic of kit and kaboodle.
10.45 Film: Glory. (1989) Oscar-winning fact-based historical drama about the first all-black regiment to fight in the American Civil War. Starring Denzel Washington, Matthew Broderick and Morgan Freeman.
12.40 Film: Come As You Are. (2011) Comedy drama, starring Tom Audeanaert. **2.25 This Is BBC Two.**

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25 Pat & Stan.** (R) **6.30 Pat & Stan.** (R) **6.35 Dino Dan:** Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50 Dino Dan:** Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00 Signed Stories:** Share a Story. (R) **7.05 Oddbods.** (R) **7.10 Sooty.** (R) **7.25 Super 4.** (R) **7.40 Adventure Time.** **8.00 Marvel Avengers Assemble.** **8.30 Thunderbirds Are Go.** **9.00 Jessie.** **9.25 ITV News.** **9.30 Murder, She Wrote.** (R) **10.25 Countrywise.** (R) **10.55 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R) **12.00 ITV News:** Weather. **12.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R) **1.10 Judge Rinder.** (R) **2.15 Doc Martin.** (R) **3.20 Film:** E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial. (1982) Sci-fi fantasy, with Henry Thomas. **5.30 Regional Programme:** Weather. **5.45 Catchphrase Celebrity Couples Special.**
6.45 ITV News: Weather.
7.00 The Chase: Celebrity Special. Bradley Walsh invites Kaye Adams, Mark Bright, Jayne Torvill and Richard Arnold to take on ruthless quiz genius the Chaser in an attempt to win thousands of pounds for charity.
8.00 The X Factor. The would-be stars face the sixth and penultimate round of nerve-racking live performances. As ever, Simon Cowell, Nick Grimshaw, Rita Ora and Cheryl Fernandez-Versini are on hand to judge the contestant's abilities with the mic, and presenters Caroline Flack and Olly Murs offer the singers much-needed moral support on-stage. Following today's show, the least successful contestants face another tense sing-off tomorrow, after which one unlucky act will be eliminated, leaving the finalists to progress through to the contest's last round next weekend.
9.30 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! Ant and Dec present the celebrity challenge and reveal which celebrity has fallen at the last hurdle, before they crown the King or Queen of the Jungle on tomorrow night's show.
10.35 The Jonathan Ross Show. American actor Burt Reynolds, and Star Trek and Mission: Impossible star Simon Pegg join Jonathan in the studio. Includes music by guests Coldplay.
11.40 ITV News: Weather.
11.55 The Chase. Quiz show, hosted by Bradley Walsh. (R)
12.45 Jackpot247. **3.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.** (R) **3.40 ITV Nightscreen.**

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The King of Queens. (R) **6.35 The King of Queens.** (R) **7.00 The King of Queens.** (R) **7.25 The Grid.** **7.55 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **8.25 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **9.00 The Morning Line.** **10.00 Frasier.** (R) **10.30 Frasier.** (R) **11.00 The Big Bang Theory.** **11.30 The Big Bang Theory.** **11.55 The Big Bang Theory.** **12.25 The Simpsons.** (R) **12.55 The Simpsons.** (R) **1.25 Channel 4 Racing.** Live coverage from Sandown Park and Aintree. **4.00 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **4.25 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **5.00 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **5.35 Come Dine with Me.** (R)
6.05 Come Dine with Me. Stephen Drew hosts the final dinner party in east Kent, and plans to spend a lot of time entertaining his guests during the Ab-Fab-themed evening, before the winner is announced. (R)
6.30 Channel 4 News.
7.00 The Great Polar Bear Feast. Documentary charting the extraordinary gathering of polar bears that occurs every year in early September off the Arctic coast of Alaska. Up to 80 bears congregate on the frozen shores of Barter Island near the Inupiat village of Kaktovik, where they feast on the remains of hunter-harvested bowhead whales. Polar bears are typically intensely solitary creatures, so this behaviour is highly atypical.
8.00 The World's Weirdest Weather. Featuring icy waves in the Arctic, earthquakes in England, floods, exploding rocks and lights in the sky that coincide with seismic activity.
9.00 Film: Non-Stop. (2014) Premiere. An air marshal on a transatlantic flight receives mysterious messages in which an anonymous terrorist threatens to kill one passenger every 20 minutes unless a ransom is paid. He searches the plane for the criminals responsible, but his investigation is threatened when he is framed as being the mastermind behind the plot. Action thriller, starring Liam Neeson, Julianne Moore and Lupita Nyong'o.
11.10 TFI Friday. (R)
12.10 Film: The Descendants. (2011)
2.10 Fargo. (R) **3.15 Hollyoaks.** (R) **5.20 River Cottage Bites.** (R) **5.35 Kirstie's Vintage Gems.** (R) **5.40 1001 Things You Should Know.** (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **8.55 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** **9.30 The Saturday Show.** **11.30 Film:** A Christmas Promise. (2015) Romantic drama, starring Patrick Muldoon. **1.15 Film:** Hats Off to Christmas! (2013) Romantic drama, with Haylie Duff and Antonio Cupo. **3.00 Film:** A Snow Globe Christmas. (2013) Premiere. Festive fantasy, starring Alicia Witt. **4.50 Film:** The Christmas Spirit. (2013) Premiere. Fantasy, starring Nicolette Sheridan.
6.35 5 News Weekend.
6.40 Funnies Fails, Falls & Flops. Comedy clip show featuring pranks gone wrong, unwise acts and failed attempts of misplaced ambition.
7.05 Ultimate Police Interceptors. Highlights of the documentary following the work of a specialist pursuit team using an array of high-performance cars equipped with technology for catching law-breakers. (R)
8.05 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. In Bedfordshire, agents Paul and Steve try to evict a community of travellers who have set up home in a private car park, however they receive a hostile response and must react to prevent the situation from spiralling out of control. Elsewhere, Stewart and Elmore chase a debt of over £3,000 in Merseyside, and in East London, Paul and Steve attempt to evict a Romanian family who stopped paying rent seven months ago. Plus, Stuart and Vic try to recover £5,000 owed by a forklift truck company after an agreement went sour. (R)
9.00 Football League Tonight. Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the weekend's top matches, as well as all the goals from the Championship, League One and League Two, including Leeds United v Hull City at Elland Road.
10.30 Live International Boxing. Lenny Pougatch presents coverage of the bout for the European Super Lightweight title, which takes place at Westcroft Leisure Centre in Carnshorn, Surrey.
12.00 Film: Reservoir Dogs. (1992) Thriller, starring Harvey Keitel. **1.45 SuperCasino.** **3.10 Dino Autopsy:** T-Rex. Investigating the anatomy of the dinosaur. (R) **4.50 Make It Big.** (R) **5.45 Angels of Jarm.** (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 World's Craziest Fools **7.30 Don't Tell the Bride** **8.30 Top Gear** **9.30 Live at the Apollo** **11.00 Family Guy** **1.15 Rent a Cop** **1.45 Josh** **2.15 Live at the Apollo** **3.00 World's Craziest Fools** **3.30 Josh** **4.00 Close**
BBC Four
7.00 Empire of the Seas: How the Navy Forged the Modern World **8.30 Britain's Outlaws:** Highwaymen, Pirates and Rogues **9.00 The Bridge** **11.00 Catching History's Criminals:** The Forensics Story **12.00 I'm Not In Love:** The Story of 10cc **1.00 Top of the Pops:** 1990 **1.40 The Old Grey Whistle Test:** 70s Gold
ITV2
11.15 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! **12.15 The Xtra Factor** **1.20 The Hot Desk:** Fleur East **1.30 Scorpion** **2.25 Film:** The Polar Express (2004) **4.20 You've Been Framed At Christmas!** **4.45 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here!** **5.50 Film:** Lost in Space (1998) **8.20 Film:** Back to the Future Part II (1989) **10.35 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here Now!** **11.35 The Keith Lemon Sketch Show** **12.35 Viral Tap** **1.20 Crazy Beaches** **1.45 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records** **2.10 Animal Practice** **2.30 Meghan Trainor:** The Hot Desk **2.40 Teleshopping**
ITV3
12.55 Film: Carry On Screaming (1966) **2.55 A Touch of Frost** **5.00 Film:** Columbo: Now You See Him (1976) **6.55 Doc Martin** **8.00 Midsomer Murders** **10.00 Foyle's War** **12.05 A Touch of Frost** **2.00 On the Buses** **2.30 Teleshopping**
ITV4
1.40 Storage Wars: New York **2.45 Film:** The Secret War of Harry Frigg (1967) **5.00 The Car Chasers** **6.00 Fifth Gear** **7.00 Storage Wars:** Texas **8.00 River Monsters** **9.00 Film:** Texas Killing Fields (2011) **11.10 Film:** We Were Soldiers (2002) **1.55 The Big Fish** **Off 2.45 ITV4 Nightscreen** **3.00 Teleshopping**
E4
12.00 Couples Come Dine with Me **2.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine** **2.30 The Goldbergs** **3.30 Film:** Astray (2009) **5.15 Rude (ish) Tube Shorts** **5.30 The Big Bang Theory** **8.00 Film:** The Simpsons Movie (2007) **9.50 Gogglebox** **12.00 The Inbetweeners** **1.00 The IT Crowd** **2.00 First Dates** **3.00 Rules of Engagement**
Film4
11.00 The Three Stooges (2012) **1.00 Rat Race** (2001) **3.10 The Cat Returns** (2002) **4.45 The Rocketeer** (1991) **6.55 One Day** (2011) **9.00 Immortals** (2011) **11.10 Stoker** (2013) **1.10 The Girl Who Kicked the Hornets' Nest** (2010)

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Lucky Christmas, Channel 5, 3.45pm
A single mother struggling to make ends meet thinks her problems are solved when she wins the lottery, only to lose the ticket before she can claim the money. A greedy construction worker offers to help her get it back in exchange for a share of the winnings, only to fall for her while they search for it. Romantic drama, with Elizabeth Berkley. (2011)

TUESDAY
A Bride for Christmas, Channel 5, 3.45pm
A woman swears off serious relationships after breaking off her third failed engagement, only to run into a man who seems perfect for her a month before Christmas. However, she does not realise he has made a bet with his friends that he can persuade a woman to marry him before the holiday begins. Romantic drama, with Arielle Kebbel. (2012)



300, Friday, ITV, 10.40pm

WEDNESDAY
Holiday Help, Channel 5, 3.50pm
A single mother is broke and desperate to get a job so she make her daughter's Christmas a happy one. With the help of an angel, she gets a position at a department store and meets the love of her life. Festive romantic drama, starring Alicia Witt. (2014)

THURSDAY
The Christmas Shepherd, Channel 5, 3.45pm
A widow is devastated when the German shepherd that is her only companion runs away. The dog ends up at an animal sanctuary, and is adopted by the kindly owner and his daughter. When the original owner finally tracks it down, she faces a hard choice between remaining alone and separating the animal from its newfound happiness. Drama, starring Teri Polo and Jordyn Ashley Olson. (2014)

FRIDAY
300, ITV, 10.40pm
Leonidas, fearless king of Sparta, leads 300 of his finest warriors into battle against the invading armies of the ruler of the Persian empire. As the outnumbered Spartans fight for their country, his queen, Gorgo, tries to rally support for her husband at home. Fantasy action adventure, starring Gerard Butler. (2006)

Will Variety prove to be the spice of life?

It's been going since 1912, and even its name harks back to an earlier age of entertainment, but never let it be said that the Royal Variety Performance doesn't move with the times.

This year, the show boasts its youngest ever host, comedian Jack Whitehall, who at 27 is no one's idea of a grizzled showbiz veteran.

However, that doesn't mean he doesn't have the experience to helm such an occasion – he's become something of a Royal Variety regular.

He says: "Having been lucky enough to perform for Prince Charles and Prince William in previous years, I look forward to the opportunity of sailing a little too close to the wind in the presence of Prince Harry this time round."

He added: "It's my third time on the show and I still am yet to perform in front of The Queen, she must be really desperate not to see my act."

In addition to amusing the royals, Whitehall has also co-written and starred in the sitcom Bad Education, which follows teacher Alfie Wickers.

However, tonight, the comedian's own ability to keep excitable teenagers in check may be put to the test, as there's at least one act on the bill who should get the younger audience members screaming.

They may have recently announced their plans to take an extended break, but all-conquering boy band One Direction are still taking to the stage at the Royal Variety Performance, and they'll be joined by their fellow X Factor graduates Little Mix.

But while there's definitely a youthful element to tonight's proceedings, older viewers needn't worry that the organisers have instituted a Logan's Run-style policy of only booking the under-thirties. As ever, the show offers something for everyone.

If the members of One Direction and Little Mix want advice on how to make sure they are still being invited back to the Royal Variety Performance in 30 years time, they could always ask Elton John, who is also on the bill.

Speaking of music survivors, there's also a rare appearance from Jeff Lynne's ELO. Other music stars

include pop princess and honorary national treasure Kylie Minogue, alongside Ricky Martin, the Corrs, The Killers frontman Brandon Flowers, Josh Groban and American country singer Kacey Musgraves.

If you prefer your songs with added jazz hands, there'll also be show tunes from the cast of Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's multi-award winning musical Mary Poppins, and British soul sensation Beverly Knight performs a number from the record-breaking musical Cats.

There's comedy from Chris Ramsey, Romesh Ranganathan and Matt Forde, who provides a political round-up of the year (although given that the show was actually recorded on November 13, there may be some recent events missing).

Cirque Du Soleil provide an spectacular acrobatic act, the cast of Olivier Award 2015 winners The Play That Goes Wrong will be hoping everything goes right, and, in what is becoming a new Royal Variety tradition, there's also an appearance by this year's Britain's Got Talent victors, Jules, Matisse and Friends.



The Royal Variety Performance 2015, Tuesday, ITV, 7.30pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Las Vegas with Trevor McDonald
ITV, 9pm

According to the popular slogan 'what Happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas' That might work for tourists who are visiting for a wild weekend, but what about the people who actually live and work there? Trevor McDonald is about to find out as he looks beyond the casinos and bright lights to learn the truth about life in 6Sin City. Among the people he meets is a former high-class call girl, who at the height of her career was earning \$2million a year, and now runs a safe house for prostitutes who are trying to escape the clutches of violent pimps. Meanwhile bail bondsman Jon talks about his dangerous line of work, and the temptations of all those casino. Trevor also meets one of the city's most famous residents, former World Heavyweight Champion Mike Tyson, who discusses his experiences of winning and losing big, and reveals why he's now unlikely to be found on the city's famous Strip.

TUESDAY
8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown Christmas Special
Channel 4, 9pm
Jimmy Carr hosts a festive edition of the comedy panel show's version of the popular and long-

running words-and-numbers quiz. Regular team captains Sean Lock and Jon Richardson are joined by guests Johnny Vegas and Katherine Ryan to provide more comic innuendos, festive surprises and laughs aplenty. Countdown's resident lexicographer Susie Dent takes her usual place in Dictionary Corner with David O'Doherty, while mathematics whizz Rachel Riley is on hand to provide the letters and numbers.

WEDNESDAY
Prey
ITV, 9pm
Last year, this crime drama debuted with an engrossing story starring John Simm as a detective on the run after being framed for his wife's murder. Now it's his Life On Mars co-star Philip Glenister who takes the lead, playing prison officer David Murdoch. While escorting a female prisoner to hospital, his life spirals out of control. David receives a mysterious phone call in which the life of his heavily pregnant daughter is threatened, and must find a way to protect her – even if it

means putting his own existence in jeopardy. Meanwhile, DS Susan Reinhardt is charged with finding him – and working out why David is acting so out of character. Rosie Cavaliero, Sammy Winward and MyAnna Buring co-star.

THURSDAY
BBC Music Awards
BBC1, 8pm
Chris Evans and Fearnie Cotton host the second BBC Music Awards, live from Birmingham's Genting Arena, celebrating a year of musical achievement. Performers include One Direction, Ellie Goulding, Jess Glynne, Little Mix, Hozier, Mumford & Sons and Omi. Artist-producer Jack Garratt is crowned BBC Introducing Artist of the Year and throughout the evening, four other awards will be presented.



BBC Music Awards, Thursday, BBC1, 8pm

FRIDAY
Citizen Khan
BBC1, 8.30pm

Mr Khan enters the Great Sparkhill Bake Off, intent on scooping top honours with his version of the lemon drizzle inside-out cake. Meanwhile, storm clouds gather on the domestic front as Mrs Khan worries that Alia's new boyfriend sounds too rough and needs a good talking to - roping her husband and son-in-law Amjad in to do her bidding. She also makes a discovery that forces Mr Khan to quiz Alia about every father's worst nightmare.

Piers Morgan's Life Stories
ITV, 9pm
Timothy West joins the host to look back on a five-decade career as one of Britain's best-loved actors. The former EastEnders star speaks candidly about his 52-year marriage to Fawcett Towers actress Prunella Scales, and the impact of her battle with dementia on their lives. He also reveals the trauma of his first wife's mental health problems, and how he finally made peace with his daughter after several years of estrangement. On a lighter note, Timothy also reflects on his role at the wedding of Prince Charles and Camilla Parker-Bowles, and the time he toured the set of Coronation Street – disguised as former Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev.

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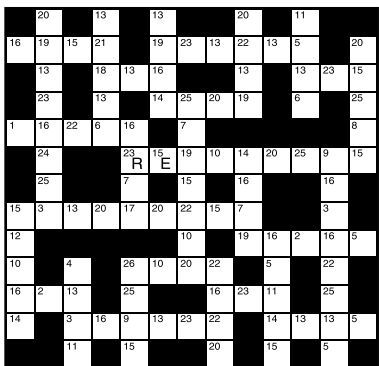
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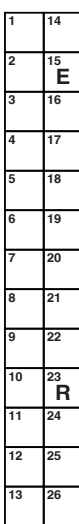
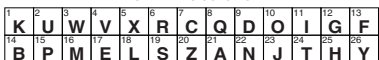
BRAIN GYM No.354

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

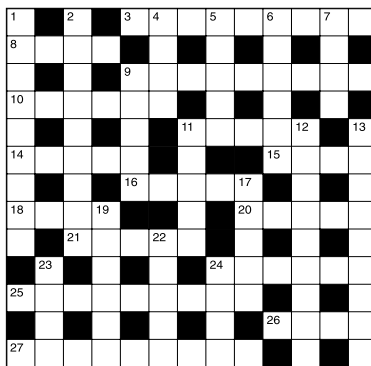
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Guidance provided by the board? (9)
- Breed that may be rare (4)
- It had short popularity in the fashion-world! (4-5)
- Emotion shown by love in little ways (6)
- In a way age is some protection (5)
- They join the course (5)
- Out of gear! (4)
- Kind of support a painter may need (5)
- Puts out a seat and has a meal (4)
- What could be finer to imply? (5)
- Noted thing to climb (5)
- More than a capital district (6)
- Diagrammatic form of catechism (9)
- A whole chapter may be devoted to him (4)
- Agreed on a fresh kind of drink (9)

Down

- Screw-driver (9)
- They may click at dances (9)
- Is first and last a goddess (4)
- Pick the literary section (5)
- Dupe to act as an usher (4,2)
- Involved in a row, Rosa is upset (4)
- Small creature with nothing to think about (5)
- Set sail on Eastern passage (5)
- Presumably he looks forward to getting on the board (4-5)
- The object wasn't far from causing an accident (4,5)
- Flower I ring up about (5)
- Hide or show (6)
- Set out for a holiday (5)
- Not a sign of a fatal wound! (4)
- This paper has a youthful following (4)



Quick Clues:

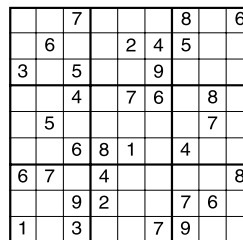
Across

- Theorise (9)
- Leave out (4)
- Burial (9)
- Steps (6)
- Drift (4)
- Mar (5)
- Period (4)
- Indiscretion (5)
- Repair (4)
- Scoundrel (5)
- Postpone (5)
- Impressive (6)
- Digger (9)
- Incline (4)
- Assuredness (9)

Down

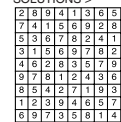
- Odious (9)
- Narrow-minded (9)
- Writes (4)
- Unobstructed (5)
- Dirge (6)
- Melody (4)
- Pastoral poem (5)
- Come to point (5)
- Camouflaged (9)
- Cleansing (9)
- Mistake (5)
- Go away (6)
- Tell; 22 Endanger; 23 Type. Down: 1 Converse; 2 Despair; 4 Report; 5 Constitute; 6 Outdo; 7 Sure; 10 Apparition; 12 Revellie; 15 Robbery; 16 Sphere; 18 Nomad; 19 Acme.

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >



LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Dock; 3 Remember; 8 Cole; 9 Speaking; 11 Baby-carriage; 13 Landor; 14 Strain; 17 Call for order; 20 Adroitly; 21 Stop; 22 Treasure; 23 Arid. Down: 1 Duckbill; 2 Caliban; 4 Export; 5 Emaciation; 6 Being; 7 Rags; 10 School ties; 12 Intrepid; 15 Auditor; 16 Bowler; 18 Agree; 19 Part. QUICK - Across: 1 Cede; 3 Precious; 8 Ness; 9 Spinster; 11 Exasperation; 13 Spread; 14 Starve; 17 Indisputable; 20 Combined; 21 Tell; 22 Endanger; 23 Type. Down: 1 Converse; 2 Despair; 4 Report; 5 Constitute; 6 Outdo; 7 Sure; 10 Apparition; 12 Revellie; 15 Robbery; 16 Sphere; 18 Nomad; 19 Acme.

Thinking space

Quiz

- The flag of which American state bears the legend 'December 7, 1787'?
- In which year did Jamaica become independent?
- What was the middle name of inventor Thomas Edison?
- What does the French expression 'hors de combat' mean?
- Which country did Margaret, Maid of Norway, rule between 1286 and 1290?
- Who was the first Democrat American president?
- In the Bible, who was the wife of Ahab?
- What nationality is author Ngugi wa Thiong'o?
- Which bird's Latin name is Passer domesticus?
- In which year of the 1970s was the Suez Canal reopened?

Last week's solutions:

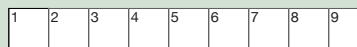
Quiz: 1 A variety of fennel; 2 Hamilton; 3 International Bank for Reconstruction and Development; 4 Sewing machine; 5 Danzig; 6 Dutch (koolsa); 7 A vent in or near a volcano; 8 Walter Gropius; 9 1975; 10 Toronto.

Niner: CONJUGATE

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

57828 gives cloth,
32192 gives more cloth,
64552 gives silk net.



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For just **£4.99** per child, they will receive a personalised letter with good behaviour points, a festive colouring picture and a festive door hanger to use on Christmas Eve. The pack will be sent in a Christmas themed envelope with four postage.

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Simply complete the form below and send it with your payment to: Personal Christmas Letters, PO Box 146, Bourne PE10 1DZ. Remember to enclose your payment of just £4.99 per child that you are ordering for. Payments can be made by cheque or postal order.

Alternatively, buy online using your debit/credit card at www.personalchristmasletters.co.uk. Please input **EXP15** in the online box 'where did you hear about us'.

This offer is for UK residents only. For overseas orders please visit our website.

All orders received on or before the 15th November will be sent out on Tuesday 1st December. All orders thereafter will be posted within 48 hours of receipt, until the closing date of 15th December. Delivery may vary.

Letters from Father Christmas

Please make your cheque payable to Personal Christmas Letters and send your order to: Personal Christmas Letters, PO Box 146, Bourne PE10 1DZ. (Please complete in CAPITALS)

Child's name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Gender's name: _____

Please 1 Email (should we need to contact you): _____ (please confirm order on a separate sheet if required)

REF: EXP15

The publishers of this newspaper may contact you regarding relevant offers and competitions. If you do not wish to receive this information please tick ☐ If you do not wish to receive any further information from Personal Christmas Letters please tick ☐

Three-storey town house located in quiet cul-de-sac



AN excellent sized and modern three storey end town house with four bedrooms in Attingham Drive, Dudley, is in a quiet cul-de-sac.

It is for sale through Swinscoes at £177,500. There is an entrance hall with tiled flooring and stairs off, bedroom three with fitted wardrobes and a Jack and Jill-style en suite shower room, bedroom four could be used as a dining room with French doors opening out to the rear garden and a utility. On the first floor there is a lounge with French doors and a kitchen with an oven and hob with extractor. From the second floor landing there is a further bedroom with fitted wardrobe and en suite shower room, bedroom two has an en suite shower room.

The rear garden is set over two levels with patio gravel areas and access to a parking area. Contact Swinscoes on 01902 672274 or visit the website at www.swinscoes.co.uk



Refurbished home in riverside town



THIS refurbished Victorian semi-detached town house in Severn Road, Stourport-On-Severn is for sale through Phipps & Pritchard with McCartneys at £175,000 with no chain.

It has an impressive lounge with a feature rustic brick fireplace, a staircase to the first floor and a second staircase to a cellar conversion that is dry lined and has laminate flooring. There is a re-fitted kitchen with a four-burner gas hob having a built-in oven beneath, larder fridge and utility/cloakroom. There are two first floor bedrooms and a re-fitted bathroom, a second floor master bedroom, gardens and off-road parking. Contact Phipps & Pritchard 01299 822060 or see www.phippsandpritchard.co.uk



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PENN COMMON, Sedgley Road
Gas centrally heated, double glazed Edwardian Cottage that has been tremendously renovated & with many period features on periphery of conservation area. Enjoying a secluded rear garden & with extensive parking & TWO GARAGES, comprising; hallway, dining room, sitting room, kitchen, pantry, Three bedrooms, bathroom. Boiler room. expertly tendered gardens. EPC: E. SEDGLEY



SEDGLEY, Northway
EXTENDED, Freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed detached with flexible room arrangements comprising; porch, hallway, L shape through living room, dining room, rear hallway, cloakroom, secondary lounge, well equipped kitchen. Two staircases to first floor with FOUR BEDROOMS (one with bathroom en suite) and further shower room, Garage, parking, garden, EPC: D SEDGLEY



GORNAL WOOD, Himley Road
SPACIOUS, gas centrally heated, double glazed, FOUR DOUBLE BEDROOM (two en-suite) detached imaginatively planned to a contemporary design comprising; hall, cloakroom, dining room, 17'8" lounge, kitchen. Second bedroom with shower room en suite, Two further double bedrooms, bathroom, and to Second floor a bedroom suite with a range of fitted units & shower room en suite. Garage. garden. EPC: C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £300,000

Offers in the region of £269,000

Offers in the region of £249,950



QUARRY BANK, Thorns Road
This EXTENDED, DETACHED HOME comprises: Spacious Hall, Guests Cloakroom, Lovely Lounge, Dining room, CONTEMPORARY BREAKFAST KITCHEN, FOUR BEDROOMS (Master with En-Suite), Family Shower Room, Driveway, Detached Garage and LARGE REAR GARDEN. EPC:D



LOWER GORNAL, Winrush Close
SPACIOUS, stylish, Freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed four (potentially five) bedroom detached convenient for the village with lengthy garden & distant views. Accommodation set over three floors provides; hall, cloaks, family room/alternative bedroom, lounge, kitchen, dining room, conservatory. Four bedrooms (principal with en suite), bathroom, garden. EPC:C SEDGLEY



COSELEY, Flamborough Way
Attractive, conscientiously maintained, Freehold, gas centrally heated & double glazed detached family home comprising; hallway, lounge, dining room (with double doors out to garden), refitted kitchen with a fine range of units, store, utility room, cloakroom. FOUR BEDROOMS (principal bedroom with shower room en suite), bathroom. Garage, garden. block paved drive. EPC: D SEDGLEY



SEDGLEY, Sunningdale Road, Northway
ENVIABLE LOCATION! Backing onto fields and with PANORAMIC DISTANT VIEWS a conscientiously maintained, uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated detached with tremendous potential in favoured 'backwater' location. Accommodation includes entrance porch, reception hall, through living/dining room, kitchen, utility room. Three bedrooms, bathroom, generous garage, gardens. EPC: E SEDGLEY



SEDGLEY, Wolverhampton Road
EDWARDIAN ELEGANCE! SPACIOUS, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached of character retaining many fine period features comprising; hall, lounge, dining room, family room, kitchen, utility, cloakroom. Three double bedrooms (principal bedroom with shower room en suite), bathroom, VAST ROOF SPACE. Gardens, Vehicular access to EXTENSIVE PARKING. EPC:E SEDGLEY

New price £229,950

Offers in the region of £229,000

Offers in the region of £210,000

Offers in the Region of £209,950

Offers in the region of £200,000



COSELEY, Breen Rydding Drive
OUTSTANDING gas centrally heated, UPVC double glazed semi detached accommodation provides hall, lounge, 17'3" dining kitchen with patio doors, pantry, utility room, fitted cloak room. Three good bedrooms (two with fitted wardrobes), reapointed bathroom Garage, neat gardens. EPC Rating D SEDGLEY



SEDGLEY, Dormston Drive
Situating within walking distance of Bull Ring; a gas radiator centrally heated, uPVC double glazed detached comprising; hallway, cloaks, 24'5" through living/dining room, kitchen. Three bedrooms, bathroom, block paving, garden. EPC: D SEDGLEY



SEDGLEY, Moden Hill
EXCITING OPPORTUNITY! Full planning consent secured to construct a magnificent detached split level family home. The plot slopes from East to West and it enjoys an unrivalled ELEVATED POSITION with magnificent panoramic DISTANT VIEWS to the West. Plans, drawings and other calculations are all for inspection at Sedgley Office. Viewing on site strictly by appointment.



LOWER GORNAL, Cinder Road
An attractive spacious and enlarged freehold gas centrally heated and primarily UPVC double glazed semi detached in favoured district. Accommodation includes porch, reception hall, lounge/ dining room, UPVC CONSERVATORY, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom ample parking, delightful good size garden. EPC rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE



QUARRY BANK, Mount Pleasant
A BRILLIANT opportunity to acquire an EXTENDED, DETACHED HOME which comprises: Hall, TWO RECEPTION ROOMS, Fitted Kitchen, THREE FIRST FLOOR BEDROOMS, Bathroom, Attractive Driveway, LARGE & LOVELY REAR GARDEN. NO UPWARD CHAIN! EPC F

Offers in the Region of £160,000

Offers around £154,950

Offers based on £150,000

Offers in the region of £150,000

£149,950



LOWER GORNAL, Grafton Gardens, Straits
NO UPWARD CHAIN. Enviably situated in cul-de-sac just off The Straits within walking distance of the village & backing on to country park at rear; a significantly improved, Freehold, gas centrally heated & double glazed intermediate 'family home', briefly comprising; hallway, spacious living/dining room, rear hallway with store, kitchen. Three generous bedrooms, refitted bathroom with white suite. Garage, sheltered garden abutting on to woodland. EPC: E. SEDGLEY



NETHERTON, The Beck
This MODERN, THREE BEDROOM PROPERTY would make a lovely FAMILY HOME and comprises: Hall, Guests W.C, Spacious Lounge, Modern Breakfast Kitchen, Three Bedrooms (Master with En-Suite), White Suite Bathroom, Off Road Parking, Rear Garden. EPC C



LOWER GORNAL, Bayswater Road
OUTSTANDING! Comprehensively modernised, stylish, gas centrally heated, double glazed intermediate family home that has been transformed by vendors to an exemplary standard comprising; hall, cloakroom, lounge, refitted 'hub of the house' dining kitchen with integrated appliances & a range of 'birch' finish units, conservatory. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Block paved foregarden. garden. EPC: C SEDGLEY



BRIERLEY HILL, Stockwell Avenue
Benefiting from a FANTASTIC KITCHEN and LOVELY BATHROOM, this THREE BEDROOM PROPERTY would make the PERFECT HOME. With UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING, GAS CENTRAL HEATING and briefly comprising; Hall, Sitting Room, Dining Room, Conservatory, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Driveway, Rear Garden. EPC: D



WOLVERHAMPTON, Farrington Road, Ettingshall Park
A fantastic opportunity to acquire a traditional semi-detached property which offers AMAZING POTENTIAL. Situated on the much sought after Farrington Road in the Ettingshall Park area this house offers; porch, entrance hall, living room, dining room, kitchen, utility, THREE BEDROOMS, family bathroom, garage, enclosed rear garden, drive and garden to front. NO UPWARD CHAIN. BEST AND FINAL OFFERS to be received by midday on Friday 4th December 2015. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY

Fixed Price of £140,000

£139,950

Offers in the region of £135,000

£134,950

Offers in the region of £134,950



SEDGLEY, Northway

CHAINFREE WITH HUGH POTENTIAL! Tremendously extended and enlarged FOUR BEDROOM detached house briefly comprising: To the Ground Floor: imposing hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen. To the First Floor: bedroom one (with en suite), bedroom three and four, bathroom. To the Upper First Floor: double bedroom two. To the Lower Ground Floor: Sitting Room, Study and a utility room. Tandem garage, garden. EPC:C. SEDGLEY



Kingswinford, Ibis Gardens

Superbly located within a popular 'cul-de-sac', this SUPERB FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED FAMILY HOME offers a LARGE CONSERVATORY enhancing the SPACIOUS layout. Set back beyond the front garden with LARGE DRIVEWAY, GARAGE and a very pleasant rear garden. EPC D



DUDLEY, Aintree Way, Milking Bank

Lovingly presented, upvc double glazed, gas centrally heated, FOUR BEDROOM, detached property situated on corner position, located on the extremely popular MILKING BANK development and benefiting from: porch, living room, well-appointed re-fitted kitchen-diner, ground-floor shower room, dining room, conservatory, en suite to master bedroom, family bathroom, landscaped rear garden and ample parking to front. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

FIXED PRICE: £249,950

£242,500

Offers in the Region of £234,950



UPPER GORNAL, Pale Street

SPACIOUS, NEW BUILD, gas centrally heated, double glazed corner style detached with flexible room arrangements. Conveniently situated, the accommodation comprises: hall, stylish BATHROOM, double bedroom, magnificent 'hub of the house' 19 ft living/dining room/kitchen. To first floor is a large 20'7" principal bedroom with shower room en suite. Parking, gardens, distant views. EPC: SAP: B. SEDGLEY



LOWER GORNAL, Sandstone Close

SCANDANAVIAN STYLE. Gas centrally heated, double glazed detached family home constructed to first quality specification & in exemplary order. Designed to match adjacent property with minimal energy/running costs the accommodation includes; hall, cloakroom, lounge, 19ft 'hub of the house' dining kitchen, garden room. Three bedrooms, bathroom, garden, GARAGE (rear), additional parking. EPC: C. SEDGLEY



UPPER GORNAL, Hill Street

EXTRA PARKING! A conscientiously maintained freehold gas centrally heated (UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED) detached with DISTANT OPEN VIEWS in favoured district and no upward chain. Porch, hall, fitted cloakroom, lounge, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms (one with shower en suite), bathroom, garage, extensive parking to front, secluded garden. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY



PENSNETT, Swan Street

This STUNNING NEW BUILD PROPERTY comprises: Hall, Guests Cloakroom, CONTEMPORARY KITCHEN, Attractive Lounge, THREE LARGE BEDROOMS (Master Bedroom with En-Suite), Well Appointed House Bathroom, Large Driveway & Substantial Rear Garden. EPC: B



DUDLEY, Himley Road

Quirky, gas centrally heated, double glazed house comprising: hall, cloaks, lounge, sitting room, breakfast room, kitchen, 4 bedrooms, bathroom, dormer attic. Extensive grounds, Mining Search available. EPC:E.SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £189,950

Offers in the region of £189,950

Offers in the region of £180,000

£179,950

Offers in the region of £179,950



WOLVERHAMPTON, Waverley Crescent, Ettingshall Park

A conscientiously maintained, gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed, extended Three Bedroom Semi-Detached house benefiting from well-appointed lounge, extended dining-room, good-sized modern kitchen, 31' tandem garage, family bathroom, driveway and enclosed rear garden. Viewing Essential. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £149,950



WOODSETTON, Vicarage Road West

uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated, double fronted detached bungalow occupying an impressive plot set in established/convenient neighbourhood. Conscientiously maintained but would benefit from some sympathetic updating the accommodation provides entrance porch, reception hall, cloaks, two bedrooms, bathroom, lounge, breakfast kitchen, utility room and an exceptionally large garage, gardens. EPC: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE

Offers in the region of £149,950



WOODSETTON, Chartwell Close

An attractive significantly improved conscientiously maintained gas centrally heated UPVC double glazed semi detached in short convenient cul de sac. Superb (recently redecorated throughout) stylish accommodation includes hallway, 15ft lounge, dining room (with patio doors), kitchen, large pantry, three generous bedrooms, tiled bathroom with white suite, garage, delightful neat well tended garden. EPC: E. SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £149,000



COSELEY, Maslin Drive, Hurst Hill

Gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed detached bungalow in quiet secluded location. Accommodation includes; entrance hallway, living/dining room, kitchen, TWO BEDROOMS, shower room. Driveway & parking, brick garage, garden. SEDGLEY EPC: D.

Offers in the Region of £147,000



LANESFIELD, Rookery Road

A freehold, gas centrally heated & UPVC double glazed detached bungalow Accommodation: porch, reception hall, two double bedrooms, sitting room, refitted kitchen with many integrated appliances, brick/UPVC double glazed CONSERVATORY, reappointed bathroom Off road parking & further gated parking, delightful rear garden. EPC D. SEDGLEY

OA £145,000



DUDLEY, Vanborough Walk

This family home is excellently presented and is situated in the popular London Heights, Dudley area. It benefits from upvc double glazing, gas central heating, THREE BEDROOMS, living room, kitchen-diner, conservatory, family bathroom, integral garage, enclosed rear garden and driveway to front. Viewing is highly recommended. EPC: C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £132,950



Kingswinford, Mount Pleasant

A SUPERBLY APPOINTED & DECEPTIVE END OF TERRACE superbly placed, offering an VERY SPACIOUS and WELL PRESENTED layout including the 24ft x lounge with dining area, luxury fitted kitchen with appliances, TWO BEDROOMS and re-fitted bathroom. EPC E.

£132,500



LOWER GORNAL, The Straits

An attractive SIGNIFICANTLY EXTENDED gas centrally heated and UPVC double glazed semi detached 'miner cottage' with NO UPWARD CHAIN enviably situated in favoured/convenient district. The property offers further potential and presently comprises entrance hallway, lounge, extended 17ft 'hub of the house' dining kitchen (with patio doors out to garden), lobby, separate toilet. Two bedrooms, bathroom, delightful particularly lengthy sheltered rear garden. EPC C SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £130,000



COSELEY, Thames Gardens, Hurst Hill

A superbly presented, extended semi-detached property which is conveniently located in the popular vicinity of Coaseley. It benefits from upvc double glazing, gas central heating, THREE BEDROOMS, living room, dining room, extended breakfast-kitchen, family bathroom, off road parking, front and rear gardens and is offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £129,950



UPPER GORNAL, Eve Lane

A fantastically presented traditional semi-detached property situated in the popular Upper Gornal area. It consists of entrance hall, well-appointed lounge, fitted kitchen-diner, THREE BEDROOMS, family bathroom, enclosed rear-garden with CABIN, centrally heated & double glazed, off-road parking. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £124,950

Large open-plan dining kitchen is a focal point



EXTENSIVELY refurbished and extended, 40 St Philips Avenue, Penn, is a most impressive detached family residence with outstanding accommodation. The focal point is a large open-plan dining kitchen.

It is for sale through Sanders Wright & Freeman at £239,950 with no chain.

Internal inspection is essential to appreciate this wonderful property which comprises entrance hall with stairs off, living room with a bay window, sitting room, dining kitchen. There is a utility room, ground-floor shower room, three good-sized bedrooms and refitted family bathroom.

The property has a driveway providing off-road parking and to the rear is a pleasant mature lawned garden with a decked patio. Call 01902 575555 or visit www.swfestateagents.co.uk



Charming home in village is spacious

JUST west of Wolverhampton in the sought-after village of Cod-sall, 13 Arps Road is a deceptively spacious and well presented charming home that includes an open-plan living area.

It is for sale through Rees Page at £134,500 with no chain and carpets included. With majority double glazing and central heating it has a storm porch, a reception hall and an L-shaped open-plan living area with stable door to verandah and door to the kitchen. Bedroom one, originally two bedrooms, could be reinstated. There is a second bedroom and a bathroom, cottage style gardens and a driveway. Call 01902 577775 or visit www.reespage.com website.



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£117,500



BRIERLEY HILL, Roach Close

This RATHER LOVELY, SEMI-DETACHED HOME would make a PERFECT FIRST TIME BUY or ASTUTE BUY-TO-LET INVESTMENT and comprises: Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, Conservatory, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Driveway, Garage, Secluded Rear Garden. EPC E

£115,000



DUDLEY, Old Park Road

An extended traditional semi-detached property that benefits from entrance hallway, living room, dining room, extended kitchen, family bathroom, THREE BEDROOMS, enclosed rear garden, driveway to fore and offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £114,950



COSELEY, Highmoor Close

Set in a quiet cul-de-sac location, this semi-detached property has amazing potential. It benefits from entrance hallway, kitchen, living room, THREE BEDROOMS, family bathroom, integral garage, enclosed rear garden, driveway to front, and is offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £112,000



DUDLEY, Occupation Street

Well maintained end of terraced property which offers potential and is an ideal starter home. It is situated in the sought after area of Dudley and benefits from upvc double glazing, gas central heating, TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS, through-lounge, kitchen, fitted shower room, enclosed rear garden, driveway to front and detached garage. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC:D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £107,950



DUDLEY, Elm Green, Old Park Farm Estate

A conscientiously maintained and well presented, semi-detached property with UPVC double glazing, part gas centrally heated and situated the popular area of 'The Greens': This fine property benefits from THREE BEDROOMS, living room, kitchen-diner, guest W/C, refitted bathroom, block-paved driveway and enclosed rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £104,950



UPPER GORNAL, Glen Road

An extremely well presented semi-detached which is an ideal first-time buyers home and is situated in the popular Upper Gornal area. This TWO BEDROOM house benefits from Living room, breakfast-kitchen, family bathroom, centrally heating, double glazing, 'summerhouse' in enclosed rear garden and driveway to front. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £99,950



BROCKMOOR, Campbell Street

This SPACIOUS, 'PERIOD' STYLE THREE BEDROOM, END TERRACE HOME is offered for sale with NO UPWARD CHAIN & comprises: TWO RECEPTION ROOMS, Cellar, GENEROUS FITTED KITCHEN, Bathroom, Three First Floor Bedrooms & Rear Garden. EPC: E

£89,950



DUDLEY, Cypress Road

This WELL PRESENTED, SEMI-DETACHED HOME should appeal to FIRST TIME BUYERS & comprises: Lounge, SUPERB RE-FITTED BREAKFAST KITCHEN, Guests Cloakroom, TWO GOOD FIRST FLOOR BEDROOMS, Well Appointed Bathroom, Driveway & Front/ Rear Gardens. EPC C

£82,500

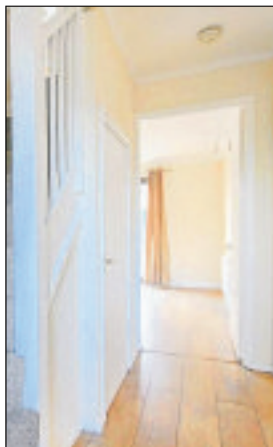


COSELEY, Hollywell Street, Hurst Hill

Delightful recently gas centrally heated (combi boiler) and UPVC double glazed FIRST FLOOR flat conveniently situated within walking distance of so many day to day amenities. Individual front door to entrance hallway with staircase up to hall, lounge, kitchen, double bedroom, bathroom, two generous stores, communal grounds. EPC: C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £64,950

An impressive detached property with no chain



AN IMPRESSIVE detached property in Valleyside, Pelsall, Walsall, is at the head of a popular cul-de-sac.

It is for sale through Goodchilds at £250,000 with no chain. It has four bedrooms, an entrance hall with stairs off and wooden flooring, a modern bathroom with a P-shaped bath, a lounge and a dining room.

It has a very appealing and spacious fitted kitchen with wooden flooring and a large conservatory with tiled flooring. There is a garage and gardens.

Contact Goodchilds 01922 711444 or visit www.goodchilds-uk.com



www.bakersproperty.co.uk

DUDLEY SHREWSBURY PLACE



NEW
Immaculate semi-detached property just two years old situated on the popular Friars Gate development. Accommodation comprises: Reception hall, lounge, fitted breakfast kitchen, integrated appliances, 16w0 bedrooms, bathroom, gas C/htg, double glazed, landscaped, private gardens, block paved drive and parking. NHBC Guarantee
OFFERS BASED ON: £119,950.00

GORNAL BROOK STREET



NEW
Mid terraced cottage style, adjacent to the Village Centre, fully refurbished, lounge, fitted kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, gas C/htg, double glazed, private rear garden
OFFERS BASED ON: £109,950.00

GORNAL

LADBROOK GROVE
Bungalow, semi-detached, immaculate throughout, hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, garage, gas C/htg, double glazed, landscaped private gardens
OFFERS BASED ON: £152,500.00

GORNAL

THORNLEIGH
Modern detached in a popular residential area a short distance from the village centre and in immaculate order throughout. Detached, Block paved drive, Garage, Reception hall, Lounge, Formal dining area Fully fitted kitchen, Cloakroom Three bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas C/htg, double glazed, Private landscaped gardens
OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £209,950.00

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• Study/Dining room
• Cloakroom, Fitted kitchen
• Three bedrooms, Bathroom
• Garage
• Gas C/htg/Double glazed
• Landscaped gardens
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Classic and modern style at gentleman's residence



THIS charming large gentleman's residence in Brunswick Park Road, Wednesbury, retains many original features and is for sale through Skitts at £225,000.

Its accommodation comprises three reception rooms (including a dining room with a bay window), a lovely entrance hall with original floor tiling and a period staircase off, a refitted kitchen, a ground floor shower room, three large double bedrooms and original stunning art deco bathroom with white porcelain fittings and original ornate green and black art deco wall tiling.

The property also comes with large enclosed rear gardens and a fenced and gated frontage.

The selling agents stress that viewing is essential in order to appreciate just what is on offer with this rare sale. Contact Skitts on 0121 5051818 or visit www.skitts.net



Five-bedroom semi set over three floors

THIS impressive three-storey five-bedroomed semi-detached new home in South Road, Smethwick, has a vast amount of accommodation and is located in a popular and convenient residential location.

It is for sale through Connells at £264,995.

It has an entrance hall with stairs off, a lounge with a boxed bay window, a dining area, a kitchen with a gas hob, electric oven, integrated dishwasher and tiled flooring, a WC, first floor bedroom one with an en-suite bathroom, two further bedrooms and a bathroom, two second floor bedrooms and a shower room. There are also gardens and a drive.

For further information contact Connells on 0121 4203611 or visit the agent's website at www.connells.co.uk website.



K. Stuart Swash

AUCTION TUESDAY 15th DECEMBER 2015



WOLVERHAMPTON, 140 MERRIDALE ROAD

Imposing Detached Residence

"In & out" entrance drive, Porch, fine Reception Hall large through Lounge, Study / Sun Lounge, 21ft Dining Kitchen, Utility, fitted Cloakroom, Four Bedrooms, one en-suite, magnificent house Bathroom, 33ft Garage, Rear Garden with gazebo. EPC: E.46

Guide: £270,000 / £290,000

VIEWING

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 4th & 5th DECEMBER @ 10.00 a.m.
WOLVERHAMPTON



130 THE LINDENS, NEWBRIDGE

Easy access to City Centre
Second Floor purpose built Flat
Spacious accommodation with Double Glazing
Private Hall, 14ft Lounge, Dining Kitchen,
Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom
Garage. EPC: F.31

Guide: £48,000/£53,000

VIEWING

FRIDAY & SATURDAY
4th 5th DECEMBER @ 11.15 a.m.



WOLVERHAMPTON 9 COALWAY GARDENS, MERRY HILL

Pleasant residential cul-de-sac -

Well appointed Detached Bungalow, Double Glazing and Central Heating Fully enclosed Porch, wide Entrance Hall, Lounge with patio doors to Garden, well appointed Kitchen, Rear Hall, Utility, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Garage, separate Workshop, attractive Gardens. EPC: D.61

Guide: £138,000 / £143,000

VIEWING:

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 4th & 5th DECEMBER @ 12.00 noon



WOLVERHAMPTON 32A BIRCHWOOD ROAD, PENN

First Floor Flat in a popular residential area
Canopy Porch, impressive 14ft Lounge,
Breakfast Kitchen, Pantry
Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Garage and
Garden. EPC: G.5

Guide: £50,000 / £55,000

VIEWING - Please Note: Access at rear via Ryecroft Avenue
FRIDAY & SATURDAY,
4th & 5th DECEMBER @ 11.00 a.m.



WOLVERHAMPTON 71 OWEN ROAD, PENN FIELDS

Large Mid Terraced House with Gas Central Heating
Enclosed Porch, Hall, Lounge, Dining Room,
Store, Kitchen, Utility, GF Bathroom,
Three Double Bedrooms. EPC: TBA
Garden to rear

Guide: £53,000 / £58,000

VIEWING

FRIDAY & SATURDAY,
4th & 5th DECEMBER @ 10.30 a.m.



WOLVERHAMPTON, 419 STAFFORD ROAD, OXLEY

Investment Property

Detached Bungalow, prominent position
Spacious accommodation, Gas Central Heating
Enclosed Porch, wide Hall, 20ft. Lounge, Dining Room, Two Verandahs, Kitchen, Store
Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, 14ft. Loft Room
Garage, off-road Parking, attractive Garden,
EPC: TBA

Please Note: This property is offered subject to a Life Tenancy with no passing rental

Guide: £58,000 / £63,000

VIEWING

FRIDAY 4th DECEMBER @ 2.30 p.m.

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A hard worker and loyal

By Matt Kimberley

It's the most important Vauxhall arriving this year. Has the compact hatch got the magic to take on its key rivals?

The Astra is an underrated, but ever-green compact family hatch, as happy taking the kids on a short break away as it is cutting a path through the city. There's no radical departure for 2016, although the sharp-eyed will notice a nip here and a tuck there.

There's an excellent new colour touchscreen that's standard across the range. It gives the whole product a lift and helps it make a better first impression.

It's a sharp-looking thing, if a bit on the conservative side. Being built in Britain won't do its appeal this side of Dover any harm, either.

Whichever model you choose, you end up with a pleasantly stylish and definitely inoffensive car. You'll never object to having it on your drive.

It's quite sensitive to trim grades, though, so whereas the fantastic top-spec cars with all the interior trimmings look like they've come straight from the top drawer, the fragile rubberised handbrake grip and cheap-looking plastics on the low-end versions leave a lot to be desired and can start to look tatty very quickly.

There's a handy boot at the back, more than big enough for most tasks, but if you're toting babies, you'll struggle to get much more than a chunky pushchair into it without putting the conveniently split rear seats down.

Front seaters will be happy enough, especially with the uncommonly well-shaped seat backs that give superb lumbar support. The glove box is shed-spacious but the door pocket shapes and cupholder designs could be better thought out.

Under the bonnet there is a 1.0-litre turbocharged petrol engine. It can't make the Astra a rocket ship, but if you're gentle, you'll see fuel economy you'd struggle to better in an eco-diesel.

I found it no problem to hover around 60mpg in relatively traffic-free driving. Alright, you do need to put some effort in, but the potential is there.

Linear

The dinky engine is perfect for chopping around urban and suburban routes. It's impressively linear once the turbo kicks in, making it smooth, forgiving and easy to get used to.

It warms up faster than a moth on a sunbed and it's perfect for no-fuss short trips. The five-speed gearbox is light and precise, with tall gearing that partly offsets the lack of a sixth, but it's clear this version isn't meant to cover serious motorway mileage. It's a nice steer, though, responding quite keenly to tugs at the wheel and scampering along winding roads with gusto.

The brakes on this nearly-new car were very grabby, but that should hopefully settle down with mileage.

The Astra is a solid car.

You know what you're getting and, although some of the materials on basement models aren't up to scratch, at the very least, the car does a good job of providing straight-down-the-line mid-size transport for people who don't want to spend the extra on



'Whichever model you choose, you end up with a pleasantly stylish and definitely inoffensive car.'

a slightly more spacious compact crossover or SUV.

Vauxhall dealers are usually open to a little haggling, too, so don't take the retail price as gospel.

You should pay less than for a broadly equivalent crossover, so there's good value to be had here even if the fashion is currently for faux-4x4s.

This is a car for ordinary people. People who want a well-rounded car to give them transport, enough space and, crucially, the ability to cope with everything from taking

the in-laws to Sunday lunch to taking the kids to the seaside.

Parents will appreciate this sort of versatility, while some might prefer the lower seating position relative to SUVs, for the better outward view it offers during low-speed manoeuvres.

This car summed up in a single word: Studios.

If this car was a student at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, it would be in Hufflepuff house. It's a hard worker and a loyal companion.

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<p>08/08 Jaguar X-Type 2.2D S Diesel 4dr Automatic, 59k, Blue, Alloys, Half Cream Leather, Air Con, CD, E/Windows £6995 / £36 Per Week</p>	<p>2005/05 Nissan X-Trail 2.2 Dci 136 SVE Diesel 5dr, 125k, Silver, Alloys, Black Leather, Sat-Nav, Air Con, CD, E/Windows, FSH £3495 / £17 Per Week</p>
<p>07/07 Volvo V50 2.5 SE Lux D5 Estate Automatic 67k, Blue Metallic, Alloys, Grey Leather, CD, Climate Control, E/Windows £6495 / £34 Per Week</p>	<p>10/10 Chevrolet Spark 1.0 Plus 43k, Silver, Air Con, CD, E/Windows, *Only £30 Road Tax* £3495 / £17 Per Week</p>
<p>09/09 Ford Fiesta 1.25 Zetec 3dr, ONLY 26k MILES, Red Metallic, Alloys, Air con, CD, Heated i screen £6295 / £33 Per Week</p>	<p>2002/02 Smart City-Cabriolet Passion Softtouch 2dr Automatic, 44k, Colourwash Yellow, Alloys, Full Leather, Air Con, CD £2195 / £25 Per Week</p>

Finance example: 10/10 Chevrolet Spark 1.0 plus, Cash Price £3495, Deposit £300, Amount of credit £3195, Fixed interest rate 6.25% Flat rate, 11.8% Apr, 60 Payments of £69.90 (£16.13 per week) Total amount payable £4793.44 (Includes £150 Document fee and £150 Completion fee, Subject to status)

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Light, handy and fun ride

By John Griffiths

Modern, sculpted good looks apart, there's not too many surprises in the package that makes up Honda's new middleweight contender in the roadster class, the CB650F.

But it's nevertheless an excellent, value-for-money machine at £6,399 which is likely to attract admiring glances in the bikers' cafe car park and provide lots of fun on the road.

Honda's previous middleweights, the CBF600 and the Hornet 600, were based on the running gear of the company's CBR sports machine but with the engine retuned to produce more usable power in the low to middle areas of the rev range.

The new CB650, with 86bhp on tap, gets the same treatment. It sits neatly between its two predecessors in terms of outright power with a theoretical top speed of 130mph (theoretical except on the track, that is).

It's particularly well balanced so that it feels lighter than its 208kgs suggests.

While its lighter than some of its four cylinder rivals, it's slimmer too and comes with a reasonable 810mm seat height, factors which combine to make it feel particularly agile around town as well as on the open road.

The electronic fuel injection provides for smooth, progressive and controllable power delivery through the slick, six-speed gearbox.

While the maximum horses are unleashed at 11,000rpm, the engine remap

means peak torque is available a lot lower down – about 8,000rpm. Indeed, you don't even need that big a twist of the right wrist – at anything above 4,000rpm in almost any gear the CB650 leaps forward to make the most of overtaking opportunities. Such a wide power band makes it very rideable in everyday road conditions.

Once on the move, the CB650 is a bit of a revelation. I've ridden dedicated sports bikes which feel heavier and slower to change direction as you flick left and right through the twisty bits.

It's pretty much effortless, and comfortable too as the bars are set wide and high for a pleasant, upright riding position which reduces strain on the neck and back.

Comfortable

The twin seat is well-shaped and comfortable, and you get grab handles for a pillion passenger as well as luggage hooks.

At motorway speeds there is surprisingly little buffeting for a naked bike.

I do struggle with some of the intricacies of aerodynamics but it may be that the Honda engineers have it cracked with just a small, well-shaped 'pod' around the headlight to deflect the wind.

It was certainly a contrast to another 'naked' bike I had ridden only the day before, where 20 miles along a motorway left me feeling wind battered and with aching arms. This had only a big round headlight to bash its way through the air.

Behind the headlight pod is the new electronic instrument cluster: a large and clear digital speedo in the centre of an analogue tachometer on the left, with fuel gauge, clock, trip and warning lights on the right.

The brakes are well up to the task, with



Excellent, value-for-money machine at £6,399 which is likely to attract admiring glances.

twin 320mm 'wavy' discs at the front and 240mm disc at the rear. The lever action is nicely progressive with plenty of 'feel'.

With a 17.3 litre fuel tank, you get adequate range with an estimated average consumption of between 45 and 50mpg, depending on conditions (and, of course, how you ride).

The 17-inch cast aluminium wheels are shod with 120/70 rubber at the front,

and 180/55 at the rear. The CB650F has aggressive, 'streetfighter' looks which to some extent disguise the fact that it's rather benign and easy to ride, with plenty of performance to satisfy most riders' requirements in this category.

Light and handy for manoeuvring around town, it's also more fun than you might expect from a 650 on winding A and B roads.

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Delivering luxury of time

By James Parker

Volvo Cars' ongoing research into autonomous driving has confirmed what we all know – that the daily commute is taking the joy out of driving. It is during the commute and on long motorway trips that people are most willing to delegate the act of driving to their car.

With this in mind, Volvo has developed Concept 26, named to reflect the average daily commute to work of 26 minutes* – time that could be spent doing something more meaningful than sitting in stop-start traffic. Volvo has set out to bring choice and freedom back to the driver; to enjoy the

driving experience when they want to, or to delegate driving to the car when they want to do something else.

"It's all about people. Our research clearly shows that some people will want to use their commuting time creatively when they have full autonomous drive available, while others will want to just sit back and relax, watch online media or listen to music. Autonomous drive will make all of this possible. This is what Concept 26 has captured by reimagining the entire car experience," said Robin Page, vice president of interior design at Volvo Cars.

Concept 26 is based around an all-new patented seat design that actively cradles the driver during the transformation phase into one of the three modes: Drive, Create or Relax. With these three modes the concept creates a new autonomous drive innovation platform that can adapt to new needs and technologies over time.

When the driver wishes to delegate driving to the car, the steering wheel retracts, the seat reclines and a large display emerges from the dashboard allowing the driver to enjoy the time spent in the car as they like. Concept 26 embraces the need for radical change of the basic design of car interiors and provides a space that can be used as the driver/passenger wishes.

Concept 26 opens up a new paradigm of possibilities in the car – from entertainment to service provision and beyond, using the technology that is now a natural part of our everyday lives. It also signals the huge potential for new business opportunities and high-tech collaborations that autonomous drive will bring.

"We have gone to great lengths to understand the challenges and opportunities that



.....
'We have gone to great lengths to understand the challenges and opportunities that autonomous cars will bring to people in coming years.'

autonomous cars will bring to people in coming years, and our flexible approach to engineering and design, enabled by our new Scalable Product Architecture, means that we can readily bring this from concept to reality," said Dr Peter Mertens, senior vice president research and development at Volvo Car Group.

Volvo Cars' ongoing Drive Me research project, which will see an extended fleet of fully autonomous cars driving real customers on the roads of Gothenburg, Sweden, in 2017 is further proof that Volvo is a leader

in autonomous drive technology, building firmly on its foundation of safety.

"Volvo Cars is among the first to address the subject of self-driving cars and liability. We firmly believe that car makers should take full responsibility for the actions of the car when it is driving in full autonomous mode. If a manufacturer does not accept liability, it clearly implies that they are not confident about their autonomous drive technology," said Dr Peter Mertens.

*Based on research of the average commute time in the United States



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Women seeking men

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FEMALE, dark haired 5'10, curvy, likes reading, walking, cinema, seeks male 40-50 for lasting relationship. **Text only to Mailbox no:** 5077545

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 4294 Box 419973**

PROFESSIONAL black female age 52, enjoys evenings and days out, would like to meet similar Midlands male. **Text only to Mailbox no:** 5315901

DISCREET man wanted by married lady for no strings fun. I'm called Sarah and am 37yrs. Pls call, **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 4299 Box 418167**

CATHY, 42, good looking brunette with a real passion for life, seeking male for happy times, dates, chats, romance and more. Pls call. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box 420073**

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks cheap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 4291 Box: 409715**

FEMALE fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416287**

MAUREEN, discreet sensual lady, 42yrs seeks daytime fun at her home. **ACA. Tel: 0906 515 4275 Box: 405297**

MAGGIE, 72 yrs young, good sense of humour, well presented, WLTm kind, sincere chappie to share coffee and a chat. **Text only to Mailbox no:** 5310040

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel: 0906 515 4295 Box: 413399**

LOUISE 35, dark hair, blue eyes, attractive ex air hostess, looking for fun times with older male for romantic nights in and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420043**

LOUISE, pretty hairdresser, works long hours, finds it hard to meet a boyfriend, 34yrs, own flat. **Text only to Mailbox no:** 4192572

39 yr old independent single Mom, knows the benefit of having a good man in the picture. **Text only to Mailbox no:** 5084796

JENNI, single mum seeks single dad, own home, can accommodate and loves spoiling her man. **Text only to Mailbox no:** 4115108

FRANCES, 45, busty female, loves nights in/out, seeking uncomplicated male who can occupy my free time for quality companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420003**

FEMALE, seeks fun loving male who likes a drink and a laugh, to enjoy erotic experiences with a curvy brunette. **Discretion guaranteed. Text only to Mailbox no:** 5073311

MARY, pretty, friendly, lots of fun, lives in Kidderminster loves the theatre, opera, ballet, WLTm a lovely, charming, funny, genuine guy, 30s, to settle down with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419883**

LOU, 45, lives in Shrewsbury, WLTm a lady between 42-49 with blue eyes, must be kind, caring and funny to mend my broken heart, someone who likes to curl up on the sofa for cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419855**

FREYA 24yr old single mum, looking for male for free time frolics, call me if you're interested, it could be fun! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419851**

LISA 38 slim attractive blonde, looking for a man who will appreciate a feminine, fashionable, fun, romantic sensual woman with a mind of her own. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419839**

SARAH 38, slim, nice looking, sensual, tactile, no ties, WLTm kind, loving male to enjoy affectionate relationship. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419821**

PAT 66, attractive, N/S, likes reading, nights out, seeks gent for friendship, days out and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418277**

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VAL 41, pretty, cuddly, flirty, seeks similar fun loving male for an uncomplicated no strings relationship. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416601**

SUSANNAH, 48, curvy female, romantic, warm and cuddly, seeks similar kind male for a loving relationship with lots of cuddles and kisses. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417341**

MID naughty forties female looking fun, thrills and discreet meets, give me a call, you won't be disappointed. Any age with own accommodation. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409108**

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DIVORCED female, attractive, sensual by nature, OHAC, bored with own company looking to make life a little more exciting with likeminded man. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419219**

JANE, 47, voluptuous female, long hair, brown eyes, generous curves, would love to spend cosy nights in with that special male. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417385**

LINDA, 47, brown-eyed blonde, caring, loving and honest, many interests, seeks genuine male to share lonely evenings with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417211**

JOYCE, affectionate sensitive widow, bit of a romantic, seeks loving male for lots of TLC. Looks unimportant, it's what's in the heart that matters. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419143**

JAN 35yr old blue eyed blonde, outgoing, friendly, WLTm passionate guy to share good wine, good conversation, flirting and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418609**

ATTRACTIVE professional lady, widow, 50's, likes walks, sight seeing, theatre, meals out, seeks genuine, professional gent, 5ft 9ins plus to make life more enjoyable. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418615**

JAN 35yr old blue eyed blonde, outgoing, friendly, WLTm passionate guy to share good wine, good conversation, flirting and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418609**

SENSUAL tactile, attractive female, long blonde hair, blue eyes, loves travel, winning/dining, WLTm genuine male for mutual companionship. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418587**

BROKEN hearted lady 39 seeks loving male to mend heart age 39/40. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4869116**

KAY, very young 45, fit and active, no ties, seeks similar young at heart, fun male for fun times, Age/Status/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418577**

VIVACIOUS strawberry blonde who knows just what she wants, looking for caring male for spontaneous fun relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418445**

WENDY, 40, slim, fit, bubbly female looking to meet a tall, slim, fit, mature male who thinks he can keep up. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418369**

JO 55, curvy redhead, loves eating out, theatre, travel, looking for middle-aged prince charming to sweep me off my feet. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4464905**

GENUINE lady looking for genuine male, age 58-60, for friendship and to have a laugh with. So if that's you would love to hear from you. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4537136**

PAT 66, attractive, N/S, likes reading, nights out, seeks gent for friendship, days out and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418277**

68YR old widow, attractive, seeks sincere, N/S male, likes reading, meals out and walks. West Midlands. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414773**

WENDY, 40, slim, fit, bubbly female looking to meet a tall, slim, fit, mature male who thinks he can keep up. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418369**

EILEEN, slim green eyed brunette likes meals out and cosy nights in, seeks tall male who would make her laugh and brighten up her day. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418347**

FEMALE fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416287**

FEMALE seeking gent 55-70, down to earth, honest intelligent who knows how to treat a lady. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417195**

YOUNG early 40's female, GSOH, kind, caring, considerate, seeks male for friendship, possible romance. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410847**

CAROL, 49, attractive, green eyed blonde, honest warm hearted, n/s with GSOH likes cinema, music, walking, meals out and travel seeking similar male. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4283683**

FEMALE, 50, short blond hair, blue eyes, 5ft 10, slim build, looking for a man 50-55 with salt and pepper hair and GSOH. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4435776**

HEATHER, 34, single very attractive brunette, sensual and interesting, looking to add to life's experiences and adventures with professional male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418193**

JACKIE lonely and looking for male company, 46-65. Need a bit of love and affection? Then I'm your girl, call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418169**

JAN, 47, once bitten twice shy! Looking for not complicated fun times. Attractive, discreet, OHAC, you won't be disappointed. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418089**

EMMA, 43, easygoing female looking to broaden her horizons, WLTm similar male for romantic liaisons. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418009**

SHARON, 48, tall slim attractive, live alone with no ties, love romanticising and WLTm man for good times together, maybe more. Any age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417751**

SINGLE mom, 40yrs, small, not skinny WLTm single dad aged 39 to 45. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4295299**

FEMALE, 36, looking for a genuine guy to wine and dine me with lots of laughter and fun times. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4758012**

JULIE, attractive early 40's brunette, size 10, varied interests, WLTm male for fun times, good conversations, spoiling and maybe more, status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418007**

TRACY, slim attractive cheerful brunette, enjoys aromatherapy/massage, looking for male who appreciates a feminine, sensual lady. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417787**

BOSTON female 56 loyal, intelligent, lovely history seeks dependable humorous male for friendship. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4751421**

TRACY, slim attractive cheerful brunette, enjoys aromatherapy/massage, looking for male who appreciates a feminine, sensual lady. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417787**

THEA, 36, extrovert brunette, curly hair, rugby fan, WLTm genuine male who will accept her as she is. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417763**

ATTRACTIVE kind, caring, single lady, loves animals, WLTm uniformed office for genuine, sincere relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417623**

FEMALE fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416287**

Men seeking women

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WAYNE, 40, cheeky, good career, likes gym. Looking for a lady who likes stimulating conversation and times. **Tel No: 0906 515 4343 Box No: 419829**

DARREN, 44, slim build, dark brown hair, green eyes, seeks genuine female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418089**

VERY useful, attractive 58 yr old, GSOH, six foot tall, nice build, n/s, genuine, tactile, fit and sporty, looking for a women for nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420135**

MICHAEL, school teacher, very shy and lonely, 42yrs, own home, car, seeks genuine caring lady. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4156551**

COLIN, live foot eight, blue eyes, bundle of fun to be around, likes growing tuchias for showing, vintage tractor for showing, weekends away, going out and staying in WLTm a lady for friendship/LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420089**

STEVE 39, 5ft 9ins, medium build, likes walks, seeks female, slim-medium build, single mum welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420089**

SFT well built guy, nicely groomed looking for fun intimate nights or day with slim/medium build attractive lady 35-55. **Text only to Mailbox No: 5132460**

ALAN, 56 year old builder, muscular build, five foot ten, fit, likes the gym, pubs, clubs and days out, seeks female with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419675**

ATTRACTIVE, fit, sporty, tactile, youthful single male seeking relationship with lady, N/S. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4851641**

WIDOWER, quiet, easygoing, slim, 5ft 7 tall, smart, varied interests, seeks slimish lady, 50 to 65 yrs for caring relationship. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4906469**

TIM, easygoing honest male, discreet, uninitiated, seeks similar non-conformist averagely attractive, N/S female up to 65. **Notts. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418465**

LEE, 50, seeking an Asian female for discreet fun and maybe more. **Dudley area. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419401**

ANDREW 53, widower, honest, genuine, caring, tactile, GSOH. Kidderminster based, hoping to love again with a decent loving lady. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4911450**

45 year old male with varied interests WLTm female 35 to 55 for fun and friendship and hopefully more. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4215562**

MATURE male, 50, medium-build, varied interests, seeks true Christian female, 35-45, who enjoys evenings in and dining out, for friendship or possibly more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419283**

MARK 40, 5ft 9ins, brown hair/eyes, attractive, good looking, OHAC/business, likes walks, day trips, cinema, seeks similar female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 348239**

PROFESSIONAL male, 41, own business, likes to enjoy life, clubs, pubs, cinema, gym, seeks similar female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 360283**

MALE 45yrs old, self-employed motor trader/mechanic, medium build, green eyes, average looks. I am a nice genuine and honest person looking for similar lady to share a honest permanent relationship and happy times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418709**

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MIKE late 60's fit, active, genuine and generous, very passive seeks assertive lady any age / looks for mutual benefits. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4747481**

STOCKY, bold, unhappily married man, seeks similar very discreet female for exciting rendezvous. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4757315**

ATTRACTIVE tall black male would like to meet female for day time fun and discreet meetings, any age or location. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5077442**

MATURE male, 50, medium-build, varied interests, seeks true Christian female, 35-45, who enjoys evenings in and dining out, for friendship or possibly more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419283**

GENTLEMAN, 57, slightly mad but not bad, who will make you ever so glad that you answered his ad! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419307**

Wink's caught your eye?

Let them know you're interested by sending them a WINK...

Simply Text

WINK 26 Text me now! Then send to 80098

ADVENTUROUS 35yr old, slim, dark hair, likes music, cycling and photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417235**

JAMES GSOH, likes theatre, meals out, socialising, seeking easy going female, 35-55. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417469**

PETE 47, enjoys walking, meals out, seeks female, age/looks/status unimportant, with similar interests for adult fun text only. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5063152**

MALE 60s WLTm genuine fun lady, 50/60s nights in or out, likes swimming, walks, music, good food etc for friendship or more. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4852727**

TIM, easygoing honest male, discreet, uninitiated, seeks similar non-conformist averagely attractive, N/S female up to 65. **Notts. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375065**

PAUL 50yrs, Birmingham, with own house and own car, I have a good sense of humour and I like going out, I'm looking for the right girl for friendship/relationship. Call me when you can. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418465**

45 year old male with varied interests WLTm female 35 to 55 for fun and friendship and hopefully more. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4215562**

ANDREW 53, widower, honest, genuine, caring, tactile, GSOH. Kidderminster based, hoping to love again with a decent loving lady. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4911450**

45 year old male with varied interests WLTm female 35 to 55 for fun and friendship and hopefully more. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4215562**

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45 year old male with varied interests WLTm female 35 to 55 for fun and friendship and hopefully more. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4215562**

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COLIN 48, kind loving, seeks large cuddly lady 45 to 60 for LTR, love, romance, also like cuddles, kisses and holding hands. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4906088**

TOM, a young 59 active attractive male, 5ft8, slimish & fit with decent looks & friendly nature, many interests, looking for lady similar age. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4926340**

GENTLEMAN, 57, slightly mad but not bad, who will make you ever so glad that you answered his ad! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419307**

GENT 55, slightly mad, but not bad, will make you glad you answered his ad! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408973**

GENUINE caring male, seeks similar female for friendship or possibly more. Aged between 25-39. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4916049**

ANDY 53, widower, honest, genuine, caring, down to earth, looking for nights in and loads of cuddles. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 4191450**

TACTILE, romantic guy, height 5ft 6in, loves good food

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- 3 Home & Services
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- 5 Business & Farming
- 6 Property
- 7 Jobs
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LOST - Black cat, wearing red collar which reads I am microchipped, from Perton area. 01902 751953 or 07907 514199.

LOST - Kimmie, Black cat, 10yrs, very timid, missing from Bradmore area. Any info appreciated. 07939 634708 or 01902 683607.

1 Family

education & tuition

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2 Leisure Time

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what's on

antique fairs

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8.00AM - 4PM
07712 597468
www.blackcountryfairs.co.uk

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Kinner Comm Centre, Sun 6th December (also Bromsgrove every Fri) Stall available for the 6th. EST 1979, Waverley, Next Book Fair Sun 20th Dec. 0121 550 4123

markets

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3 Home & Services

collectables & memorabilia

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furniture

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BRITISH COINS AND MEDALS wanted by private collector. Please contact 01902 676540.

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READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

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3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

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Nell, 1 year old female collie, tri
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lovely nature.

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socialising.

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bounds, needs understanding
collie home, very handsome.
Also others

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£35. o.n.o.
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LASSIE & TINA two small very
pretty black and white border
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must stay together.

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affectionate, small girl

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Two year old lurcher, staffie
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loves everyone, people, chil-
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Playful, travels well, in a foster
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cross, 10 month old male.
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Call Angela 07714 442263.
Gina 07919 607028.

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wildacrerescue.co.uk
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**5
Business &
Farming****business
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advice before entering any obli-
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**6
Property****accommodation
to let****NOTICE TO READERS**

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let, Park Village, off road parking,
CH. DSS ok. 01902 886605.

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CH. DG. Off road parking, £115.50
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NOTICE TO READERS It is an
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supplying particulars of premises to
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pets. 07976 781003.

**overseas
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ments.

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The Sorrento peninsula and Bay of Naples form one of the most beautiful corners of Europe, rich in history, boasting breathtaking scenery and of course, first class cuisine.

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The Amalfi coastline offers stunning views and a full day is spent driving the meandering roads, admiring the exclusive resort of Positano, the picturesque village of Amalfi and then Ravello, perched in its breathtaking location boasting delightful small cafes and the Villa Rufolo, a charming collection of medieval buildings.



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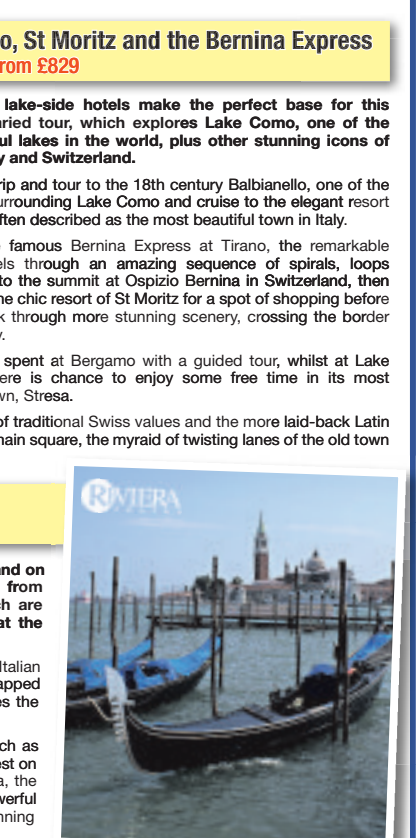
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Lake Garda is an area of outstanding natural beauty and on this holiday there is a selection of hotels to choose from in either Malcesine or Riva del Garda, both of which are beautifully surrounded by lofty peaks and situated at the more scenic north end of the lake.

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Venice is unique and caught in a time warp. Culturally rich as any city can be, see many of the countless places of interest on a guided tour, including St Mark's Square and its Basilica, the Campanile and Doge's Palace — home to the most powerful man in Venice. A trip on a gondola is also a must in this stunning and fascinating city (payable locally).

Discover the hidden gems of medieval Verona, on a guided walking tour, then explore the typical Italian shops and market place here, or maybe enjoy the violinists serenading customers at the numerous pavement cafes.



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Hales have to hold on to keep their victory

Old Halesonians 26 Lichfield 24
THE Home side took the game by the scruff of the neck from the kick off, starting with the first of many tackles from skipper Richie Taylor.

On one a Lichfield forward caused a knock on giving the Old Hales pack the opportunity to show their dominance in the scrum.

The scrum saw Lichfield being moved backwards giving the back line the chance to run with the ball from the halfway line with Carl and Andy Robinson working their way towards the opposition 22.

A Robinson finally kicked the ball through a gap for winger Andy Holloway to dive over the line for the first Try of the day after only five minutes. Oli Rayner converted.

Lichfield made progress and mauled the ball over the line and converted. On 25 minutes Lichfield slotted a penalty from 40 yards giving the away side the lead.

Smarting from their lack of points despite dominating possession, Old Hales then managed to put together a passage of play which saw winger Luke Smith flying over in the corner for a score.

Old Hales continued in the same vein and were rewarded with another try. This time by centre Ben Barkley working his way through for the points. Rayner converted.

The second half saw hooker Sam Jones drive over for the fourth and bonus point try, again converted by Rayner.

A yellow card saw Old Hales reduced to 14 which gave Lichfield enough of an advantage to score.

Kenny denies approach to take QPR job

WOLVES boss Kenny Jackett insists he hasn't been approached by QPR for their vacant manager's job.

Rumours are rife that the London club have launched a formal bid to prise Jackett from Wolves.

Rangers are said to have Jackett high on their shortlist to replace Chris Ramsey, who was sacked earlier this month.

Jackett, however, denied that QPR had contacted him – and committed his future to Wolves.

The 53-year-old has close ties to London and spent three years at Loftus Road as assistant to Ian Holloway from 2001 to 2004. Jackett said of the speculation: "It's not my position to talk about others clubs. But there hasn't been any approach to myself, or as far as I'm aware, the club, so there's nothing to say on it. "I'm committed to Wolves."

Old Hales enjoy a clean sweep

OLD Halesonians Hockey Club completed a clean sweep of victories across all their sides this weekend for the first time this season.

The Mens 1st XI beat Edgbaston 2-1 at King Edward Five Ways in their Warwick Printing Midlands One fixture, but it was a real Jekyll and Hyde performance from the hosts.

The first half was as dull as the weather, as Hales struggled to keep possession or muster any chances of note.

However, Edgbaston could not take advantage, as yet again Hales' rearguard proved a tight unit to break through.

After stern words at half-time, the hosts improved

and finally started to put passes together and create chances. It was through their first meaningful attack they scored.

Tom Durnford drove into the D to win a short corner and from the resulting play, the ball broke to Graham Knight whose reverse hit strike found the bottom corner.

The goal galvanised the hosts and they soon doubled their lead as Josh Randhawa poked the ball home after an initial shot from Knight was saved.

Edgbaston fought back and claimed a consolation goal, but they could not find an equaliser before the final whistle.

The result consolidates Hales in third place, three

points off second placed Loughborough Town. After the game, captain Paul Woodall said, "We proved that possession doesn't guarantee you points, it's about creating chances and taking them and that's what we did." Hales travel to Coventry and North Warwick this Saturday.

Other results saw the Ladies end their recent losing streak defeating Stourport 5ths 2-1 with goals from Molly Kelly and Rae Andrews.

The men's section saw the 2nds, 3rds and 4ths complete 5-0 victories, against Finchfield, Telford and Sutton Coldfield respectively. The Mens 5ths won 3-2 against Edgbaston and the Badgers completed the set, with a 4-0 victory over Worcester.

Glassboys keeping their win four-mula

Stourbridge 4 Spennymoor Town 2
STOURBRIDGE continued their stunning Cup form this season with the win against Spennymoor Town in the FA Trophy third qualifying round.

Glassboys boss Gary Hackett rang the changes with next Saturday's eagerly awaited FA Cup clash against Eastleigh in mind, making six changes from the side that beat Marine in their previous outing and that clearly showed in the first half as lower level Spennymoor were much the better side.

Hackett admitted: "In the first half we were below par and very fortunate to find ourselves in front. "We changed the formation in the second half and the outcome was very pleasing."

Spennymoor should have built a compelling lead by half-time after Liam Henderson hammered a shot against the Glassboys' post on 19 minutes while goalkeeper Lewis Solly produced two top class saves to keep out goalbound shots from Gavin Cogdon and then Andy Stephenson just after the half-hour mark.

Smash

But after looking second best for most of the half, Stourbridge took the lead on 37 minutes when Drew Canavan crossed from the right for Mark Wright to smash home at the far post.

Spennymoor struck back immediately when Stephenson's 41st-minute corner picked out central defender Joe Tait who netted with a downward header.

Determined Spennymoor then took the lead on 53 minutes when Stourbridge's defence backed off for Stephenson to let fly with a fabulous 25-yard effort.

Stourbridge levelled matters on 66 minutes when Ben Bellingham's pin-point free-kick picked out skipper Stuart Pierpoint who climbed highest in a crowded goalmouth to head home.

Two minutes later, Stourbridge were ahead, Justin Richards cutting inside to rifle home from the edge of the box.

Stourbridge duly added a fourth on 87 minutes when a slide-rule pass from Smikle sent striker Tyree Clarke scurrying down the right flank before crossing along the goalmouth where Lowson failed to gather, enabling Wright to turn home.

Seagulls dive bomb the Blues



Nicolai Brock-Madsen battles for Blues during the away contest which saw Brighton win

Brighton 2 Birmingham 1
SOLLY March and Bobby Zamora goals took Brighton back to the top of the Championship with a hard-fought 2-1 victory over Blues.

Jon Toral levelled for the Blues shortly after March's opener, but the Seagulls hit back to extend their undefeated club-record run to 19 matches. Unchanged Brighton gave summer signing

Zamora his first home start for 12 years – the much-travelled striker played against Watford at the Withdean Stadium in 2003 during an earlier spell at the club – and with new loan signing from Manchester United James Wilson was on the bench.

Back by a crowd of 27,242, their biggest of the season, the Seagulls got in and behind the visitors' defence several times in the first

10 minutes and Israel international Tomer Hemed came close to breaking his goal drought early on.

Former Albion goalkeeper Tomasz Kuszczak came to Blues' rescue by saving a goalbound shot from Hemed with his legs after Zamora had broken through powerfully to set the chance up.

Brighton soon opened the scoring.

Dominant Tivs are handed a shock defeat

Carlton Town 5 Tivdale 2

IN a game that was labelled a six-pointer and possibly the defining one of the season, Tivdale promised so much but ended with nothing against a side also in the bottom three of Evo-Stik Division One South.

The pitch required an inspection on the morning of the game after heavy rain for most of the previous week up in Nottingham and after passing the game was going to be played on a very heavy pitch.

No-one could have seen what was to come as Tivdale started much the better with chances for Malachi Farquharson and Chris Sterling.

But as can always happen when you don't make the pressure tell, Carlton took the lead with their first shot on target on 37 minutes when Daniel Gordon curled a free-kick over the wall and into the top corner.

On 43 minutes Tivdale were back in the game when Sterling netted from the penalty spot after Chris Rabone had been fouled.

Sterling gave Tivi the lead a minute after the break with a curling shot.

But on 57 minutes Carlton levelled as a Joe Fitzpatrick free-kick out by the corner flag somehow ended up in the back of the Tivdale net.

Sterling passed up the chance to complete a hat-trick and the home side took Tivdale apart in the final 15 minutes as Romaine Graham, Josh Rae and Fitzpatrick, with his second goal, took advantage of some poor defensive work to wrap up the three points.

Tigers get their claws into Dudley

Trysull 4 Team Dudley 0

TRYSMULL Tigers left Team Dudley licking their wounds with a 4-0 victory in West Midlands Division One.

The students went behind after 19 minutes when Stephen Rickhuss played in Ross Melrose to slot a shot past keeper Liam Jones.

Six minutes later Trysull doubled the lead when Jonathan Patrick's shot from half-way was carried into the net by the wind.

The final two minutes were ones to forget for TD with a double blow.

After losing the ball in midfield, a perfect cross found Jack Johnson who rounded Jones to make it 3-0. Then, right at the death, Trysull broke away and Johnson finished off the move abruptly with a simple finish.

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Sport

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Pics pick up the point with goalless draw

Rushall 0 Halesowen 0
HALESOWEN Town left Rushall Olympic with a point as they played out a goalless draw in the Evo-Stik Premier.

Luke Benbow introduced Halesowen's new keeper Shaun Rowley to the game early on when he forced him into a save low down.

Rowley was pleased to see the ball caught under Zak Martin's feet before he could shoot before veteran Asa Charlton produced two good tackles to deny Alex Reid.

Kris Taylor forced another save from Rowley, who was impressive in the first half as he also saved from Reid, Benbow and Jake Heath.

The visitors' best chance came when Jean Michel-Gueyes fired straight at Dean Coleman from close range before Rowley produced his best save so far – diving to his left to keep out Jack Duggan, who went close earlier on.

Reid tried to square for Heath early on in the second half but good defending from Aaron Griffiths prevented the midfielder from having a tap in.

Griffiths came close to breaking the deadlock as he curled a free-kick just wide of the target before Benbow shot wide at the other end.

The visitors almost won it late on when Michel-Gueyes drove at goal from 20 yards but Coleman produced the best save of the game to tip the ball onto the bar.

Rushall Olympic: Coleman, Christopher, Wilkinson, Martin (Tolley 60), Duggan, Townsend, Heath, Palmer (Wright 60), Benbow (Lavelle-Moore 82), Taylor, Reid. Subs not used: Caines, Howell.

Halesowen: Rowley, Summerfield, Griffiths, Denny, Morrison, Westwood, Charlton, Michel-Gueyes, Reffell, Waite (Daniels 64), Hales.

Inspired Lambert was terrific, says Albion boss Pulis

TONY PULIS hailed "terrific" Rickie Lambert after the striker inspired Albion's comeback to claim a point at West Ham.

With the Baggies one down at Upton Park, Pulis introduced the veteran striker as a half-time substitute and within five minutes he had helped create the equaliser when his shot deflected off the hand of Hammers skipper Winston Reid.

The 33-year-old has seen his playing time limited since a £3million summer move from Liverpool and Pulis believes his performance in yesterday's 1-1 draw was just reward for his professional attitude.

"It was time for Rick," said the Baggies head coach. "He is a wonderful footballer."

"Since he's joined the club, he's not played as much football as he wants and that's my fault. I pick teams I think are going to win games."

"His attitude to training and the players and the young people at the football club is absolutely fantastic. He cares about football and wants to play every."

Dean buzzes off after deal with Bees

Many Walsall fans believe their promotion dreams are in tatters following the shock departure of boss Dean Smith.

Smith and assistant manager Richard O'Kelly left the Banks's Stadium on Monday to join Championship side Brentford.

The news has been met with dismay by the majority of Saddlers supporters who, after an impressive start to the season, had hoped Smith would stay to mastermind their push for the Championship.

Smith and O'Kelly were in the crowd on Monday night to watch their new side in action against

Football

Bolton at the Macron Stadium. Now the Saddlers begin life without their old management team.

Coaches John Ward, Jon Whitney and Neil Cutler will be in charge of team affairs.

And in another surprise twist, reports emerged that Salop boss Micky Mellon could be one of the names in the frame to replace Smith at the Banks's.

"After rebuffing interest from a Championship club last month, the Saddlers successfully agreed a new 12-month rolling contract with Dean," the

statement said. "However, at the time of signing he requested assurances from the club that he would be given the opportunity to speak to any interested parties regarding any future job opportunities should they arise." Brentford are believed to have targeted Smith after a move for Swansea assistant manager Pep Clotet collapsed last week.

And the Walsall club statement confirmed the Bees made their approach in the build-up to Saturday's win over Bradford.

"After an approach from Brentford ahead of our game against Bradford City on Saturday – Dean indicated his desire to speak to the Championship outfit," it read.

Boxing bill is back at Town Hall

RYAN Aston will tick over and Ricky Summers will return in six-rounders when professional boxing returns to Dudley Town Hall.

The venue hosts paid pugilists for the first time in eight-and-a-half years on Saturday, with Paul 'PJ' Rowson again the promoter.

Darren McDermott headlined the last card there on Thursday 28 June 2007, winning the Midlands middleweight title with a second round stoppage of Conroy McIntosh.

"The Black Country Bodysnatcher," now 35 and retired, moved on from there to win the English crown and challenge for both the British and Commonwealth belts.

Now the new generation of fighters will be expected to restore old glories with Dudley's Aston – who was coached by McDermott as a child at Priory Park Boxing Club – top of the bill.

"Tank" is a top contender to the English light middleweight strap, having defeated Nathan Graham by fourth round TKO in an eliminator.

The 24-year-old southpaw tunes up against Christian Hoskin-Gomez, who should provide stubborn opposition after his recent run.

The Devon-based Spaniard, with 13 bouts on his record at just 20, has taken two points wins and a draw from his last three outings.

He's boxed in the Black Country before, too, and went the distance with Midlands super middleweight champion Andrew Robinson last year.

Tipton's Summers provides chief support in his first outing for nearly nine months, after taking a break and switching coaches to join up with Jon Pegg.

Tickets, are £35, £50 ringside and £70 stage, are on sale now. For more information, call 07976 283 157.

Bright gets outing with the Under-21s

STRIKER Bright Enobakhare was back in Wolves colours at the weekend.

The teenager, who was last week disciplined for going AWOL, made a 30-minute appearance off the bench during a 1-0 defeat for Wolves' under-21 team against Derby County.

It was Enobakhare's first action for a month.

Also in action was Icelandic forward Bjorn Sigurdarson who played 90 minutes as he continues his comeback from a serious back injury.

Ethan Ebanks-Landell played the full match as Wolves went down to a late winner from Kyrion Stabana.

NOT PRETTY AT MOLINEUX

Wolves 0 MK Dons 0
ONE win in eight matches, a second successive goalless draw at home, two wins at Molineux all season... not a pretty picture.

Neither does Wolves' league position – 15th with just 21 points from 18 matches and a goal difference of minus one.

They remain closer to the relegation zone than the top six, although curiously they once again edged closer to the play-offs in terms of points, as they did last week, with sixth-placed Blues' second successive defeat meaning Wolves have seven points to catch up.

But it's hard to garner any positives from Wolves' current malaise.

A second match of deep frustration – of promising performances but a lack of confidence and clinical finishing – was encapsulated in this farce of a draw against MK Dons.

Farical in that they created enough opportunities to win three matches, but spurned every single one of them.

Noisily

The supporters ominously and noisily voiced their discontent, both at full-time and when Jordan Graham was substituted despite him being Wolves' best player up to that point.

Graham and the equally impressive Henry teed up chance after chance.

On each occasion the chance was either profitably wasted, saved by the impressive David Martin in the MK Dons goal, or there simply weren't enough Wolves players in the box to take advantage.

If Wolves' primary tactic is to get the ball out wide and cross into the box, then to have just Benik Afobe and a late-arriving David Edwards trying to get on the end of them doesn't add up.

Afobe tried to be all things to all people, playing as a playmaker, striker, target man, all in one. Again, three roles for one player – the numbers don't work.

Then again, the introduction of Adam Le Fondre coincided with Wolves losing their momen-



Dave Edwards takes a tumble as Dean Lewington protests his innocence

tum. And Ojo, on for Graham, wasn't half as effective. It led to a surprisingly flat and drab end to the match, with Wolves creating only one real chance of note after that double switch.

They ran out of steam against a limited MK Dons side, whose manager admitted they didn't deserve a point, and whose goalkeeper Martin said he'd never had to work harder for a clean sheet in his career.

In those closing stages, of the two sides MK Dons came closest to breaking the deadlock.

Now that really would have set the alarm bells ringing.

As it is, Wolves are unbeaten in their last three

matches, all draws that in a parallel universe they could easily have won.

If they'd won nine points instead of three, they'd be one point off the play-offs and their flagging season would be back on track.

Based on performances and not results, any talk of a crisis is still too premature.

If Wolves were playing horrendously, not creating chances, not showing the spirit they did at Portman Road last week, then it would be a different matter.

And although they failed to beat a struggling side here, they did produce their most dominant and one-sided performance of the season.

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Despite the growth, the business is still very family run with the company director, Dave Walters, heavily involved with his management team to ensure the standards of installations remains high. We now have six fully employed, installation teams with the administration and management teams expanded to ensure that the company has a strong focus on customer service and after sales advice. We insist on a hassle free, no pressure showroom and quote service. Our company ethos is if a job is worth doing, its worth doing right. We pride ourselves on our professionalism, workmanship, quality and aftersales which is why our business continues to succeed. In the past twelve

months we have performed over 900 installations with the vast majority of these being recommendations or repeat customers.

Foundations of the company have been strengthened by continuing to maintain our CHAS (Construction Health & Safety Scheme) accreditation and ensuring that all of our staff are trained and supported. We have an external health & safety consultant who delivers training to our staff, inspects their work and ensures that we are working safely and competently on customers properties, performing first class installations.

We also consider guarantees and security for customers to be essential, therefore we invest and are registered with the double glazing ombudsmen scheme (DGCOS), one of the best consumer protection policies on the market. DW Windows Ltd has to be vetted and inspected to ensure that we provide our customers with:-

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Our fantastic showroom enables us to showcase our products and give customers the opportunity to come and see, feel, touch and witness the quality of installation we can offer. Anyone can show customers a promotional brochure here at DW Windows we feel it is vital for customers who are investing such a lot of

money in their property to be able to actually see the finished product in the flesh. In total we display eight conservatories / orangeries, two porches, twenty seven various doors, three sliding patios, two bi fold doors, sliding sash windows and various other window products.

Our local showroom at 7 brick Street, Sedgley remains open for customers however our window, door and conservatory centre also has the more specialist products on show such as Residence 9 windows, aluminium, flush sash and conservatory tiled roof options to enhance your home. As well of these different styles of window there are also various coloured profiles on display.

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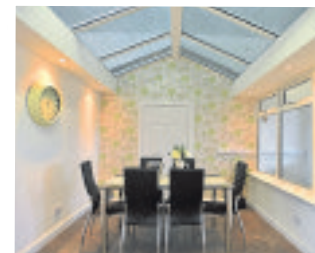
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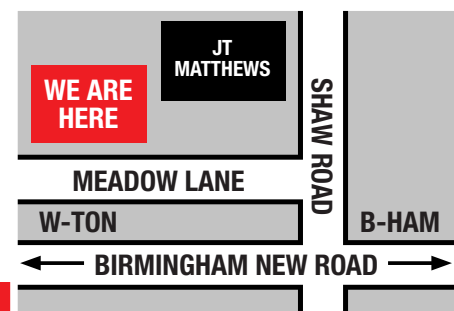
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